FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 060 *27 March 1984*

ARGENTINA

Foreign Minister on Relations With U.S. B 1
Grinspun Proposes Debt Regionalization, Bonuses B 1
Justicialist Statement Criticizes Alfonsin B 2
Briefs: New Foreign Secretary B 2

BOLIVIA

Opposition Parties Demand Siles' Resignation C 1
Briefs: Trade Balance, Reserves; 1983 Oil, Gas Production C 2

CHILE

Reportage on Security Measures Undertaken E 1
Santiago Curfew Enforced E 1
More on Curfew E 1
Communications Media Restricted E 1
Reportage on Prelude to 27 Mar 'Day of Protest' E 2
Security Measures Strengthened E 2
Unions Reject Participation E 2
Another Union To Take Part E 3
CNT Calls for Marxist Support E 3

COLOMBIA

Mexican President Arrives on Official Visit F 1
More Peasants Murdered in New EPL Actions F 1
Eight Executed in Attacks F 1
Five Killed in Turbo F 2
Six Die in San Agustin F 2
Briefs: New Naval Base F 2

ECUADOR

Parties Set Positions on Presidential Runoff G 1

PERU

Terrorists Machine-Gun Former Minister's House J 1
Shining Path Attacks in Ayacucho Reported J 1

URUGUAY

Army Commander Confirms 25 November Elections K 1
President Alvarez Speaks on Debt at IDB Meeting K 1

MEXICO

Argentine Minister Stops Over After Cuba Visit [UNOMASUNO 19 Mar] M 1
Nicaragua's Ramirez Discusses C.A. Issues M 1
EL UNIVERSAL on Recommended PRI Reforms [21 Mar] M 2
Pemex Says Spain Will Buy More Petroleum M 3
Briefs: New Democratic Party President M 3

CENTRAL AMERICA

CADESCA Efforts To Aid C.A. Countries Announced P 1

COSTA RICA

Monge Comments on Letter From Nicaragua's Ortega P 1
Police, Salvadorans Clash at San Jose Cathedral P 3

EL SALVADOR

Reportage on Vote Count, Early Returns P 3
CCE Rejects Fraud Chances P 3
PDC Claims Lead P 4
Unofficial Results Announced P 4
Computer Begins Official Count P 5
Official Results Still Pending P 6
Official Results Begin 28 Mar P 6
COPREFA Chief Gives Views on Elections P 6
San Salvador Affected by Electrical Blackout P 6
Austria Obtains Release of Three Detainees P 7
[Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG 25 Mar]
Military Activity Reported Around Country P 7
Seizure of Tejutepeque [Farabundo Marti] P 7
Rebels Report Fighting [Venceremos] P 8
San Vicente, Cabanas Clashes [Farabundo Marti] P 8
Rebels Claim Victory [Farabundo Marti] P 9
Propaganda, Explosions Used To Protest Elections P 10
[Farabundo Marti]
FDR's Ungo Cited on 'Failure' of Elections [Managua] P 10
Correction to Item on PRTC-FMLN Organization P 11

GUATEMALA

Mejia May Veto Constitution Over Belize Claim P 11
Eight Receive Asylum From Ecuadoran Embassy [Quito] P 11

HONDURAS

Foreign Minister Signs Statement With Costa Rica P 11
Bomb Explosion Reported in San Pedro Sula P 12
Bombs Kill 1, Wound 1 in Capital, San Pedro Sula P 13

NICARAGUA

High-Level Couriers Ask Contadora for Help P 13
U.S. Accused of Waging 'War' by Mines, Sabotage P 14
[EL NUEVO DIARIO 19 Mar]

Editorial Condemns U.S. 'Maritime Blockade' P 14
[BARRICADA 22 Mar]
Ortega, Ramirez Discuss U.S., Contras, Elections P 15
Commander Torres Comments on Rebel Attacks P 21
William Ramirez Heads Delegation to Norway [cross-reference] P 21

CUBA

Fidel, Raul Castro at Minint Anniversary Meeting Q 1
Soviet Flotilla Arrives, Naval Officers Meet Q 1
U.S.-Honduran Military Exercises Conclude Q 2
New U.S. Maneuvers Expected in Honduras Q 2
ORPA Ambushes Army Troops in Guatemala Q 2
Guatemalan Party Hits Mining of Nicaraguan Ports Q 3
Mining of Nicaraguan Ports Condemned Q 3
Hondurans' Protest of U.S. Presence Cited Q 4
Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega Reports Contra Attack Q 4
Nicaraguans Report Recent Heavy Fighting Q 4
Nicaragua Sends Protest Note to Honduras Q 4
Sandinists Issue Plea to Contadora Presidents Q 5
Nicaraguan Envoy in Moscow Cited on USSR Ties Q 5
USSR-Nicaraguan Economic Cooperation Noted Q 5
Managua Press Criticizes El Salvador Election Q 6
Election Results in El Salvador May Be Challenged Q 6
Salvadoran Union Calls Members To Strike Q 7
Four Dynamite Attacks in Chile Reported Q 7
Peruvian Government Plans To Suppress Strikes Q 7
National Strike Fails Q 8
Peruvian Leftists Demand Minister's Resignation Q 8
Mexico's De la Madrid Cited on C.A. Conflict Q 9
Comments on Contadora Q 9
UN Secretary General Meets Mexican President Q 9

FOREIGN MINISTER ON RELATIONS WITH U.S.

PY261127 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1750 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 25 Mar (NA) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo today stated that negotiations on the Argentine foreign debt "have found great understanding from the United States" and that relations with the United States "tend to be very good."

The foreign minister said that at the meeting with the U.S. secretary of state to be held in Washington on 11 April, they will discuss "overall relations between Argentina and the United States, our mutual views on Latin American problems, the situation in Central America, and the foreign debt problem."

Caputo added that on 10 April, the day before the meeting, he will hold a working meeting with Henry Kissinger, President Ronald Reagan's adviser, and that in the afternoon he will give a lecture at the Council on Foreign Relations on relations in the hemisphere and the democratic process in Latin America.

Caputo said that the meeting with the U.S. secretary of state will take place at a time when Argentine-U.S. relations "can be described as tending to be very good."

"Over the past months, we have significantly strengthened dialogue between the two countries, because this dialogue has allowed better understanding," the Argentine foreign minister said. He added: "We have had an important number of U.S. visitors of different levels. We have talked a lot, and as I see it, this dialogue has allowed us, through a mutual understanding, to achieve an increasingly more important relationship with the United States."

Regarding the impact of these relations on the Argentine foreign debt, Caputo stated that "from the point of view of political reality, there is great understanding in the United States of the Argentine situation and of the problems it is facing to pay its debt according to the terms established previously. Thus, what we are doing now is going through all the normal procedures with the IMF."

"In this regard, we are finding understanding and an adequate dialogue, but obviously these things are often very difficult because the banks must also respond to their depositors. I want to say that it is not as simple as it looks, but we hope that as time passes this situation will improve," he stated.

GRINSPUN PROPOSES DEBT REGIONALIZATION, BONUSES

PY261257 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] During a round table meeting in Punta del Este of delegations from debtor countries, Argentine Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun proposed the regionalization of the foreign debt. Grinspun also proposed that interest payments should be suspended for a period of time and that, at the same time, bonuses with a fixed interest rate should be issued.

Grinspun spoke to the Mexican and Brazilian delegations at the meeing held at the Hotel San Rafael, making what has been termed the most concrete among the expositions made during the conference. He stressed that a period of grace was needed for the recovery of the world economy. The minister said that only in this way will we be able to make this heavy, uphill economic journey.

Referring to Argentina, he added that any attempt at recovery will be impossible while 8 or 9 percent of the GNP is transferred abroad every year. In this connection, he explained to the representatives of the Latin American area who were present that over two-thirds of Argentine exports in 1982 and 1983 were absorbed by interest payments.

Grinspun maintained that if we can grow for 3, 4, or 5 years, we will probably be in a better condition to face the payment of the debt. He proposed the issuance of bonuses with a fixed interest rate by the debtor countries. The bonuses should be placed by each of the debtor countries in a special account at the IDB which would then issue bonuses of the same value which would cover the debt of those countries. Among the advantages of this issuance of bonuses, Grinspun mentioned that it would be positive, from the point of view of the creditor banks, to have a bonus from an institution with first-rate credit on the world market, such as the IDB, instead of doubtful assets in developing countries, which is now the case. Grinspun explained that the issuance of bonuses will also allow the banks to achieve an orderly use of their assets, because these bonuses would be negotiable and widely acceptable on the world financial market. They could permit the creation of liquid assets at banks whose assets are now paralyzed, he said.

JUSTICIALIST STATEMENT CRITICIZES ALFONSIN

PY262058 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2215 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 24 Mar (NA) -- The Buenos Aires City Justicialist Party branch has severely criticized the Radical government of Raul Alfonsin by charging that it has not fulfilled campaign promises, that it has divided popular movements, that is inclined to adopt an internationalist ideology, and that it continues to implement a foreign policy based on "the secret diplomacy method" that has been used by previous military regimes. In addition, the Justicialist branch criticizes the government's permissiveness in tolerating foreign ideological and cultural penetration, the lack of effective punishment for those responsible for the destruction and death of 30,000 persons, and the lack of knowledge of the main labor laws whose inapplicability "denies in practice the government's alleged defense of human rights."

This and other criticisms against the administration were noted by the Buenos Aires City Justicialist branch in an extensive 11-page statement that was approved last night by the metropolitan Justicialist congress which was attended by about 360 representatives.

The political statement warns that "the country is at a crossroad" and that "hunger and misery are harassing low-income sectors of the population and this situation may deteriorate into violence and disorder." The statement adds that in view of this, "All Argentines should be aware of this and particularly the Radical administration, which should change its attitude and subordinate its political program to the overall interests of Argentine society."

BRIEFS

NEW FOREIGN SECRETARY -- Argentine President Raul Alfonsin yesterday administered the oath of office to the new foreign secretary for special affairs, Jorge Federico Sabato, who is replacing Hugo Gobbi. [Summary] [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 14 Mar 84 PY]

OPPOSITION PARTIES DEMAND SILES' RESIGNATION

PY262042 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0746 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] La Paz, 25 Mar (EFE) -- Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo is undergoing a new attack by opposition parties, which are urging him to call for new general elections this year and to resign from the executive branch.

These fronts, headed by the rightist Nationalist Democratic Action [ADN] which was third in the 1980 general elections and whose presidential candidate was General Hugo Banzer Suarez, feels that Siles Zuazo's government has demonstrated "incompetence" in trying to overcome the crisis.

Moreover, Oscar Zamora Medinacelli, one of the main leaders of the pro-Chinese Marxist Leninist Communist Party of Bolivia [PCB-ML], has stated that if Siles does not succeed in overcoming the difficult economic and political situation as soon as possible, he must resign.

Zamora, who holds a seat in the national senate, warned that if Siles does not resign, he will mobilize the people "in a legitimate right to defend their interests."

Other groups of the right adhere to these proposals and this week began a new offensive against Siles Zuazo's regime which assumed power a little more than 17 months ago.

The call for new general elections this year under the pressure of opposition political groups has been considered "an unconstitutional act" by leaders of the powerful "Bolivian Labor Federation [COB]."

Simon Reyes, leader of the pro-Moscow Bolivian Communist Party [PCB], and a top member of Bolivian unions, has stated that the proposals for elections in 1984 violate the decision of the national congress which has granted Siles the possibility of governing from 1982 to 1986.

The opposition claims that Siles was elected in the 1980 elections, and that his term in office must, therefore, end in 1984, although he assumed power in 1982, due to the bloody coup d'etat which prevented him from assuming his government post.

The "Historical Nationalist Revolutionary Movement [MNRH]," whose president is Victor Paz Estenssoro (1952-1956 and 1960-1964), the main party opposed to Siles, has kept silent while its leaders were evaluating the political situation.

Nevertheless, MNRH circles, which have an important bloc in congress after coming in second in the 1980 elections, have revealed that this party wants "definite decisions from the Siles Zuazo government to overcome the crisis."

Otherwise -- sources close to Paz Estenssoro stated -- "there are democratic mechanisms to replace an incompetent government," although they declined to concretely mention the instruments that would facilitate Siles' dismissal.

Meanwhile, the president is doubling his efforts to reorganize the weakened Democratic and Popular Unity [UDP] which won the 1980 elections and which placed him in Government Palace to guarantee democracy and to face the economic crisis with a stronger political basis.

The reorganization implies the probable return of the dissident Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MIR] to power, although leaders of this political group neither confirmed nor denied their return to the executive branch.

Opposition political sectors feel that Siles will not overcome the critical situation with or without the MIR, and proposed, therefore, the assumption of a new government, although they explained that the change should not take place through a military coup.

Rumors of the existence of a coup d'etat to overthrow Siles Zuazo have stopped during the past few days, although former dictators have reappeared publicly in the current political arena.

Referring to the return to Bolivia of former Colonel Faustino Rico Toro, who has been residing in the United States, and to remarks made to the press by Gen Banzer and by former General Luis Garcia Meza, both former "de facto" presidents, Siles Zuazo's government has stated that "in democracy, everyone has the right to speak."

BRIEFS

TRADE BALANCE, RESERVES -- Finance Minister Fernando Baptista Gumuncio has reported that the balance of trade had a surplus of $26 million in 1983. Baptista added that the Central Bank's current reserves are $25 million and that its gold reserves amount to 28 tons. [Summary] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 3 Mar 84 p 7 PY]

1983 OIL, GAS PRODUCTION -- The Central Bank's National Accounts Department has reported that production of oil and gas decreased by 5 percent and 6 percent respectively during 1983. It added that oil production decreased by 0.54 million barrels during 1983 and gas production decreased from 95,364,000 cubic feet in 1982 to 90,596,000 cubic feet in 1983. [Summary] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 25 Feb 84 p 1 PY]

REPORTAGE ON SECURITY MEASURES UNDERTAKEN

Santiago Curfew Enforced

PY261828 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The government has decreed a curfew in the metropolitan area and San Antonio Province. It will be in force from 2200 tonight until 0500 tomorrow. Tomorrow the curfew will be in force from 2030 until 0500. All transportation and mobilization will be suspended. This measure has been implemented to guarantee public order and peace, which are threatened by terrorist actions.

More on Curfew

PY271247 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The national government has enforced a curfew today, Tuesday. The information, which was (?disseminated) by the National Defense Ministry, has been confirmed by Major General Rene Vidal, chief of the Santiago and San Antonio Province state of emergency zone. Vidal said that the measure is aimed at preserving public tranquillity. The curfew decree states that the Armed Forces, police, and security forces will preserve public order by protecting public services, guaranteeing public tranquillity, and preventing vandalism and subversive actions.

The decree adds that the people will not be able to walk the streets or travel in cars, either individually or in groups. The people must remain in their homes, and those who work night shifts must stay at their work places. The decree exempts cars belonging to the Armed Forces, security forces, government authorities, the judicial branch, the diplomatic corps accredited in Chile, ambulances, and fire brigades, all of which must carry the corresponding passes. However, all cars will be inspected by security forces, and their drivers must cooperate.

The decree adds that if any citizen who does not have a pass is compelled to leave his home during the curfew due to serious illness or an accident, he must contact the nearest security officer in his area to explain his situation. The decree says that airport passenger buses must request a pass at the airport from the Santiago air brigade. Passengers may use their tickets and identity cards or passports as passes.

No private and state buses or taxis will be able to circulate during the curfew. Similarly, cinemas, theaters, bars, ice cream parlors, and other shops must close on time.

Any citizen who is seen by personnel of the Armed Forces or security forces to be violating the curfew decree must stop to be identified and questioned. The Armed Forces and security forces have precise instructions to impose strict compliance with the decree. The curfew decree concludes by stating those who try to provoke members of security forces will be exclusively responsible for the consequences of their actions.

The decree is signed by Maj Gen Rene Vidal (Fasau), chief of the metropolitan and San Antonio Provice state of emergency zone.

Communications Media Restricted

PY270247 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0215 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Santiago, 26 Mar (EFE) -- The communications media should refrain from stressing facts or reporting on behavior that can induce, lead, or favor in any way the disturbance of public order as long as the state of emergency is in effect.

President Augusto Pinochet today signed a decree setting down rules for newspapers, magazines, publications in general, and radio and television stations. Compliance with these rules will be enforced by the minister secretary general of government office or the respective chief of the zone which is under the state of emergency.

At the same time, the chief of the Santiago zone, which is under the state of emergency, imposed a curfew that is to be observed today and tomorrow when the protest demonstration called by the opposition is scheduled. The state of emergency, which was decreed on 23 March, will be in effect for 3 months.

REPORTAGE ON PRELUDE TO 27 MAR 'DAY OF PROTEST'

Security Measures Strengthened

PY270114 Paris AFP in Spanish 1827 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Santiago, 26 Mar (AFP) -- President Augusto Pinochet's military regime has decreed a curfew in Santiago a few hours before the day of protest, called for Tuesday by the labor union leaders and members of the opposition, is held. The day of protest will be held to demand Pinochet's resignation and the restoration of democracy.

This drastic measure, which will also be in force on the day of protest, was reinforced by the implementation of a state of emergency throughout Chile and which authorizes the military authorities to restrict public liberty.

General Rene Vidal, chief of the Santiago state of emergency zone, disclosed that the streets will be patrolled by police forces and did not dismiss the possibility that military forces could be deployed should the circumstances require it. In today's issue, the social-democratic leaning newspaper CAUCE stated that unconfirmed rumors have said that the government is prepared to mobilize 24,000 soldiers in this capital.

A warning issue by Gen Vidal stated that those who try to provoke the members of the security forces must be aware that they will be solely and exclusively responsible for any regrettable consequences that such provocations may have.

Authorized sources, for their part, revealed that the hospitals have been placed on a state of red alert, a measure which is only taken in case of tremors or catastrophes.

The National Workers Command, headed by union leader Rodolfo Seguel, reiterated that the demonstrations summoned for tomorrow are of a peaceful nature and its leaders pointed out that they have never advocated violence. The union leader stated that the workers' unwavering position has been to seek understanding to arrive at, in the shortest time possible, the reestablishment of democracy in Chile.

Unions Reject Participation

PY261310 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Transporters and public transport workers reject the call for a day of protest. (Carlos Bittar), national president of the unions that group transport enterprises and their workers, has revealed his emphatic repudiation of the day of protest that has been called for tomorrow by the communists. He states that the day of protest is a political event and that it does not represent the interests and aspirations of the workers.

Another Union To Take Part

PY270055 Santiago Radio Cooperative in Spanish 1715 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The Confederation of Transportation and Related Activities Workers, which is chaired by Sergio Benegas, has endorsed tomorrow's protest. In a statement made public, this organization gave the grounds for this decision, noting that the labor laws are harmful to the workers' interests.

CNT Calls for Marxist Support

PY261337 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The so-called National Workers Command [CNT] has called for Marxist support during tomorrow's day of protest. This has been approved by Rodolfo Seguel and the representatives of the so-called Popular Democratic Movement, MDP, which groups [words indistinct] and extreme leftist groups. The meeting was held at the headquarters of the Confederation of Copper Workers [CTC] [words indistinct] the day of a peaceful protest will take place on the indicated day.

The representatives of the MDP have also stated that they are in contact with the Democratic Alliance [AD] to plan joint actions against the government during this year. They also indicated that they will release a (?document) in the near future, which will be drafted jointly by the three groups.

Despite this, Seguel and the MDP representatives have denied that there is a (?link) between the political and union aspects of the situation. However, members of the so-called CNT had previously said that politics was linked to union activities [words indistinct].

Meanwhile, Gabriel Valdes, a member of the AD -- which is now linked to the Marxist-Leninist and extreme leftist groups -- has stressed that nothing will stop them from taking various types of actions against the government, no matter what the consequences.

Instructions have been given regarding tomorrow's day of pprotest. The organization is in the hands of the Marxist sectors that operate within the MDP and the AD. [words indistinct] The agreement was reached during a meeting held at the headquarters of the National Copper Workers Command of Santiago. [Words indistinct] strategy developed by the Marxist sector for carrying out actions of violence and terrorism during tomorrow's day of protest.

Jaime [surname indistinct], a former leader of the Popular Unity, has reported that a coordinating committee for acts and demonstrations will be created to organize the political acts to take place in the upcoming days of protest.

It has been learned that the hardline sectors within the AD and MDP [words indistinct] have imposed their strategy, having displaced the moderate sectors [words indistinct].

MEXICAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

PA262115 [Editorial Report] Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish at 1730 GMT on 26 March broadcasts live from TAM Military Airport, where Colombian President Belisario Betancur is on hand to welcome visiting Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid.

Following a 21-gun salute and renditions of the two countries' national anthems, President Betancur delivers a 1-minute speech in which he says that "Colombia opens its arms and heart" in welcoming the Mexican president, whom he describes as a "herald of peace."

President De la Madrid speaks for 3 minutes in response. After greeting the Colombian on behalf of the Mexican people and stressing the two nations' common origins, President De la Madrid makes reference to the area's many existing problems, saying "this is the time to strengthen our relations; it is the time to seek solutions marked by cooperation and solidarity."

He then adds: "May the Colombian people and the Government of the great Republic of Colombia feel Mexico's affection, solidarity, and political determination to strengthen our brotherhood and friendship and to work together to initiate a new democratic, free, and just era in Latin America, marked by solidarity."

After the Mexican president finishes speaking, the announcer says that the two presidents will now be greeted by the various officials and dignitaries on hand and receive appropriate honors. The announcer uses this time to supply details about the two countries' trade in recent years and comment on their joint efforts within the Contadora framework.

Martial music is then heard, as the two presidents review the military honor guard. The station then apparently ends its live coverage and returns to its studios, for regular programming is resumed promptly at 1800 GMT without the provision of any details about the two presidents' departure from the airport.

MORE PEASANTS MURDERED IN NEW EPL ACTIONS

Eight Executed in Attacks

PA240345 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Medellin -- A new massacre of peasants was reported today by departmental authorities in a distant region on the border between the Departments of Antioquia and Cordoba.

Gabriel Emilio Quejado, police inspector at the Nueva Antioquia Municipality, reported that eight people had been shot to death by a group from the clandestine Popular Liberation Army, EPL, which stormed two towns in this jurisdiction.

According to official reports, the guerrillas killed several peasants, identified as Jose Miguel Vasquez Lozano, Carlos Alberto Escalona, Luis Enrique Parra, Pedro Miguel Sitalia, Edgardo Jaramillo, Felix Jaramillo, Jesus Amado, and Dario Vargas.

Three of the eight peasants were executed in the small village of Rodoxali and the other five on the outskirts of the village.

According to the brief official report, an EPL group assaulted the village and after rounding up the peasants shot them to death and then fled to a mountainous region in the Cordoba Department.

Departmental authorities are currently analyzing the increased violence in the Uraba region in order to send troops to the region to locate the subversive cell.

Other reports note that this morning in the town of [name indistinct] a group from this subversive organization shot Police Inspector Ruben Dario Arroyado Zapata to death.

Soldiers have mounted an intensive search for the rebels who have killed nine people in this region.

Five Killed in Turbo

PA270429 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Medellin -- The wave of violence in Antioquia Department has increased in the last few hours. Rural residents of the Turbo Municipality have found the bodies of five peasants who were murdered by the Popular Liberation army [EPL] group. The Antioquia government secretariat said that in Piedrecitas, Turbo Municipality, the inhabitants found the bodies of Isabel de Caicedo, David Sanchez, and Wilfredo Palacios.

Subsequently, in (El Alto de la Tela), in the same region, another two bodies of peasants were found. Their identities were not revealed by the authorities. According to the local residents, in the last few days EPL members have entered several homes and killed the inhabitants. A total of 19 persons have been murdered in the last 2 weeks by the EPL.

Six Die in San Agustin

PA270443 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Neiva, Colombia -- Combined Army and police forces are carrying out an intensive search to find a guerrilla column that in the last few hours killed six peasants in (Alto del Obispo), San Agustin Jurisdiction, after accusing them of being Army informers.

The authorities said that a mass funeral was held this afternoon with the attendance of the citizens and government and police representatives.

The victims were murdered by an Army of National Liberation command.

BRIEFS

NEW NAVAL BASE -- The Colombian Navy will build a base in Cove, in the San Andres y Providencia Archipelago, to enforce the country's sovereignty in the Atlantic. Vice Admiral Rafael Grau Araujo, deputy commander of the national Navy, reported that the base will serve the Army, Air Force, and Navy. The military installation will have a special wharf for corvettes and submarines. The high-ranking Navy officer said the base will have the capacity to house a battalion and will provide maintenance to ships and airplanes that watch the border in this area. The base will also have modern radio equipment to link the units that patrol the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Military sources revealed that a fuel depot will be built near the wharf to supply fuel for ships, airplanes, submarines, and helicopters. [Summary] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 10 Mar 84 p 8-B PA]

PARTIES SET POSITIONS ON PRESIDENTIAL RUNOFF

PA261800 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] The electoral panorama for the second round of elections planned for Sunday, 6 May is practically defined already. Out of 17 legally registered parties in the country, only one, the Alfarista Radical Front [FRA], still has not defined its stance regarding final presidential candidates Rodrigo Borja from the Democratic Left [ID] and Leon Febres Cordero from the National Reconstruction Front [FRN].

According to the latest reports, Borja has managed to get the support of seven parties identified with the center left parties, the ID and the People, Change, and Democracy party [PCD], which had composed an alliance for the first round of elections.

Febres Cordero is being supported by six political parties, four of which comprise the FRN. These four parties also supported him during the first round.

During the past few days, three parties defined their positions for the second round: the Concentration of Popular Forces [CFP], the Ecuadoran Roldosist Movement, and the Ecuadoran Socialist Party [PSE].

The FRA still has not defined its stance. This party will hold a meeting in Guayaquil on Saturday, 31 March, to arrive at a decision regarding the candidates.

The CFP National leadership, headed by its director Averroes Bucaram, left the party's militants free to vote in the second round according to their conviction and for the country's good. After equally criticizing both finalist presidential candidates, the CFP leadership finally accepted the proposal of former CFP presidential candidate Andel Duarte to leave CFP militants free.

The Ecuadoran Roldosist Movement decided last Thursday to fully support Borja in the second round and oppose the Ecuadoran right. It was reported that this commitment was made in exchange for bureaucratic cooperation. Abdala Bucaram, the leader and Guayaquil's mayor-elect commented that his party rejects the Ecuadoran right's anti-democratic stance and maintained that his party will not allow any cooperation with the next government.

During a meeting held yesterday in Quito, the PSE authorized its militants to seek a way to not vote for either Borja or Febres Cordero, but also not to cast blank ballots.

The FRA will be the last party to define its stance. It will meet Saturday, 31 March. There are various tendencies in the party: The Pichincha leadership is in favor of Borja, as is former vice presidential candidate Miguel Falconi; other sectors, including former presidential candidate Jaime Aspiazu, advocate the FRA's running alone in the second round. FRA's director Cecilia Calderon has indicated that her party is of the center left. The FRA assembly will finally determine the party's stance during the second round.

TERRORISTS MACHINE-GUN FORMER MINISTER'S HOUSE

PY261523 Paris AFP in Spanish 1426 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Lima, 26 Mar (AFP) -- The police have reported that terrorists last night machine-gunned the residence of Carlos Rodriguez Pastor, the former economy and finance minister, and that neither Pastor nor his family were injured in the attack.

The attack, which was carried out at 2300 (0400 GMT) by eight unidentified men armed with submachine guns, was carried out from three different positions. At the time of the attack, the former minister was in the second story of the house, along with his wife and daughter.

According to the sergeant and two policemen who were guarding the house, at least one bullet hit the room where Rodriguez Pastor was staying, while another hit the kitchen and three hit the minister's car. It was also reported that the police car that was at the minister's house was also hit by three bullets.

The attack took the three policemen on duty by surprise. They were not injured because they were positioned behind some trees on the grounds of the residence during the 3-5 minutes of the attack.

SHINING PATH ATTACKS IN AYACUCHO REPORTED

PY261825 Paris AFP in Spanish 2013 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Lima, 25 Mar (AFP) -- Police sources reported today that the Peruvian extremist group Shining Path set off six bombs last night and left a large part of Ayacucho, 575 km southeast of Lima, in darkness.

Meanwhile, General Adrian Huaman Centeno, chief of the Political-Military Command of the Emergency Zone, who was called in by his institution, arrived in Lima today and has asked the government for a $20 million budget to develop rural areas and to achieve the total pacification of the zone, which is in the throes of violence.

After indicating that the zone's cities are slowly recovering their confidence and are resuming their activities, Huaman said that this society must begin to defend itself so that the danger will not increase in the future. He also said that there is work to do in the rural zones for a long time to come.

Moreover, it has been learned from police sources that a corporal, a policeman, and a civilian have died and that another two policemen and a civilian were wounded during an attack carried out by Shining Path yesterday against a police post in San Francisco, La Mar Province, Ayacucho Department.

ARMY COMMANDER CONFIRMS 25 NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

PY241754 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The Army commander, Lieutenant General Pedro J. Aranco, said in Punta del Este today at noon that the national elections will be held 25 November, despite any statements to the contrary. The high-ranking officer told newsmen from El Espectador, Radio Sport, and the Cadena de Oro that the dialogue with the political parties should continue. The events of the last few hours should not change the road we have been following. Great tranquillity is needed in the current situation, said Lt Gen Pedro J. Aranco.

Regarding the situation of the nation, he said that the talks should continue. The events that have taken place in Montevideo in the last few hours, or rather since Thursday, should not influence the schedule that has already been established.

PRESIDENT ALVAREZ SPEAKS ON DEBT AT IDB MEETING

PY270203 Paris AFP in Spanish 1704 GMT 26 Mar 84

[By Oscar Martinez]

[Excerpt] Punta del Este, 26 Mar (AFP) -- The overwhelming Latin American debt and the pressing need for a just and rapid solution that may allow every nation to attain its development were the main issues addressed today at the IDB governors meeting.

During the initial session held this morning, Uruguayan President Gregorio Alvarez and IDB President Antonio Ortiz Mena dedicated the main part of their speeches to the most serious crisis that the region has had to confront. They referred to the high interest rates, the terms of the debts, the large amounts needed to service the debts, and the protectionist practices to which industrialized countries have resorted in their dealings with their debtors.

The Uruguayan president pointed to the unpredictable sociopolitical consequences, at the regional and the world level, of the unprecedented debt, whose servicing absorbs a very high percentage, if not all, of export earnings.

Alvarez criticized the negative effects of the existing international economic system, under which debt terms, protectionism, balance of trade deficits, and high interest rates have dramatically affected the welfare of nations.

While stressing that all debtors are willing to meet their obligations, he pointed out that the problem between creditors and debtors calls for a just and rapid solution.

He warned that it is time to abandon purposeless assessments and to work for a reasonable balance through the joint and coordinated efforts on industrialized and undedeveloped countries.

President Alvarez said that the terms of the debt must be extended and the interest rates reduced, so that while debts are serviced, imports may remain at a reasonably profitable level, thus preserving the living standards of our nations. He demanded a proper financial agreement that may allow Latin American countries to generate wealth and move forward on the road to development. Otherwise, he noted, they will have to adopt restrictive measures that will paralyze and destroy their economies.

ARGENTINE MINISTER STOPS OVER AFTER CUBA VISIT

PA251841 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 19 Mar 84 p 7

[Excerpts] Argentine Commerce Minister Ricardo Campero has stated that the budget deficit of the most industrialized countries is "one of the reasons for the trade limitations and trade decline in the Latin American countries." He said that if this situation "is to change," key countries must include Latin American products in preferential systems and eliminate customs barriers.

Ricardo Campero was interviewed at the Mexico City airport during the stopover that the minister made in this capital on his way to Argentina after meeting in Cuba for 4 days with commerce officials. During the interview, Campero made reference to the warning issued by IMF President Jacques de Larosiere that the budget deficits of the industrialized countries are a threat to a steady economic recovery, are absorbing an important portion of national savings, and are alienating private investors.

NICARAGUA'S RAMIREZ DISCUSSES C.A. ISSUES

FL231636 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0220 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, today reported that the United States is attempting to build an economic and commercial barrier around Nicaragua by mining the main ports of that Central American nation.

Interviewed at the Mexico City airport, Ramirez Mercado said that these terrorist actions by the Reagan administration have increased the violence in Central America despite the peace efforts by the Contadora Group, which has been struggling for over a year to bring peace to the area.

Ramirez Mercado, stopping over in Mexico, is heading a Nicaraguan delegation which has completed a working tour of Iran, Libya, and Spain to enhance political, economic, and diplomatic relations. He said that peace has always been in danger in Central America. He emphasized that the U.S. Government is trying to impose a military solution on the conflict that is troubling Central America. This demonstrates that the U.S. Government has not understood the Contadora Group's efforts for peace in the region.

Later, he pointed out that Nicaragua is willing to have all foreign advisers withdrawn from its territory as soon as the United States withdraws its military from Central America. He specified, however, that there is reluctance on the part of Ronald Reagan's administration to take this step.

Questioned about recent incidents in Nicaraguan waters, the Sandinist leader called them acts of piracy which go against the norms of international law and free navigation. He said that all the ships that have been damaged by the counterrevolutionaries' mines have been merchant ships with innocent civilians abroad and he demanded an end to these terrorist acts.

He gave assurances that the Nicaraguan Government has taken all necessary security measures to safeguard the ships that dock in Nicaragua's ports.

Ramirez Mercado departed for his country accompanied by Culture Minister Ernesto Cardenal, Finance Minister Joaquin Cuadra Chamorro, Industry Minister Emilio Baltonado, and Commander Omar Cabezas, head of the Interior Ministry's political delgation.

EL UNIVERSAL ON RECOMMENDED PRI REFORMS

PA251828 Mexico City EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 21 Mar 84 p 4

[Editorial: "PRI Reforms"]

[Text] A reduction in the number of high-level officials in the PRI and increased decisionmaking power in the ranks are some of the basic proposals to be reviewed by legal and political science experts and to be presented to the party's national assembly next July.

Of the avalanche of proposals to reform the party statutes and modernize its ideological platform, which requires the full attention of the party leadership, one that has stirred special interest is the proposal submitted by the Confederation of Mexican Workers [CTM] to reduce from 18 to 5 the number of leaders of the National Executive Committee [CEN].

What appears to be a proposal designed to reduce bureaucracy within the PRI's high-level organi ation and to bolster the authority of its branches also involves a risk: that of giving excessive powers to the five higher officials. To concentrate the power of decision in a small group has its advantages and disadvantages. Final decisions will be easier to adopt, and as we have already noted, it will eliminate a useless bureaucratic apparatus that serves only to hamper fast action on matters entrusted to the party's CEN. In fact, every official is backed by the work of an army of employees and minor officials. It is time that this situation is eradicated.

However, this also gives rise to a dangerous concentration of power if we take into account that there will be one representative for each party sector, plus a president and a secretary general, according to the CTM proposal. This means that there will always be a minority sector within the CEN and two on an equal footing, or one with triple representation. This could trigger a silent internal struggle to win a majority representation within a power group as important as the CEN. It is obvious that the CTM intends to do this, as shown by the recent statements of labor leader Fidel Velazquez, who has always insisted on the predominance of the working class.

The other sectors, however, could share this opinion. The national assembly will have the last word. Meanwhile, the party leaders have heeded the proposition of the CTM and have shown a positive attitude toward it. Perhaps a compromise decision will be required -- neither 18 nor 5. There will be a reduction, but not to the requested minimum, particularly with what it entails. Mathematics will no doubt play an important role in this case, so that no sector may consider itself at a disadvantage. The two factors can be perfectly fused together.

The other outstanding aspect of the PRI reform projects is that which grants greater participation to the 32,000 committees and subcommittees of the party in the making of decisions. It is necessary to insist that no institution, regardless of its nature, should be governed from a desk in the center of the nation, excluding the opinions of those who are directly or indirectly benefitted or negatively affected, and who at the same time are the ones who really know the problems of their municipality or state.

PEMEX SAYS SPAIN WILL BUY MORE PETROLEUM

FL240026 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2352 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Madrid, 23 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Pemex Director Mario Ramon Beteta has reported here that this state agency will sell an additional 10,000 barrels of oil per day to Spain.

Petromed, which will be in charge of directly importing the Mexican oil, became the fifth Spanish institution to buy the Mexican product. During the signing of the agreement, Beteta recalled that Spain is one of the main buyers of Mexican oil. It buys 10.5 percent of the total Pemex sales. The United States, Beteta noted, is the largest buyer with 53.6 percent of the total export figure.

BRIEFS

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRESIDENT -- Ignacio Gonzalez Gollaz became the new president of the Mexican Democratic Party last night. He announced that he will create a national executive committee and that he will struggle against everything that is bad and outdated in Mexico. He said that the next 3 years will see few words and considerable action, and he pledged to fight for democracy in the country. [Summary] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 12 Mar 84 pp 4-A, 27-A PA]

CADESCA EFFORTS TO AID C.A. COUNTRIES ANNOUNCED

FL231622 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2342 GMT 22 Mar 84

[By correspondent Yazmin Ross]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Because of the worsening Central American situationa, the Action Committee in Support of Central American Economic and Social Development [CADESCA -- Comite de Accion de Apoyo al Desarrollo Economico y Social de America Central] has stepped up its efforts to achieve an effective support for the region by Latin American countries. CADESCA President Renward Garcia Medrano of Mexico made the statement when referring to the organization's recent work, which is being coordinated with the Contadora Group's diplomatic efforts aimed at relaxing tensions in the Central American region.

As he began here a tour of several countries aimed at encouraging economic support for the Central American nations, Garcia Medrano announced that Argentina is willing to sponsor agreements to provide financial and technical support of a limited scope to the five Central American countries. After acknowledging the critical limitations of the project, the Mexican diplomat indicated that as a result of these agreements, stronger nations in the subcontinent will help, without discrimination and exclusion, all Central American countries in financing their production and the sale of their products throughout Latin America. Medrano indicated that Argentina is also committed to support Central American efforts before the Inter-American Development Bank [BID] in Punta del Este, Uruguay, to obtain credits amounting to $250 million to accelerate regional development.

COSTA RICA

MONGE COMMENTS ON LETTER FROM NICARAGUA'S ORTEGA

PA261510 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] The Sandinist regime has protested the undeclared war against Nicaragua. Intensification of tensions in Central America and of the Nicaraguan war are the basic topics of the letter that Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, has sent to Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge. According to President Monge, the lengthy letter denounces the intensification of tensions and the war in Nicaragua, protests the fact that Nicaragua's ports on both the Atlantic and the Pacific were mined, and asks that we do something to put an end to these actions, which they regard as an undeclared war against Nicaragua. The president said that he has received the note and will answer it. He also said: We also worry over the intensification of tensions in Central America, but we cannot deny that prior to them, other developments have taken place which have added fuel to the Central American bonfire.

What Costa Rica can do about the concerns expressed by the Sandinist regime is to insist that our country fervently wants peace in Central America and that we will continue to make every effort to keep this tragedy from spreading to Costa Rica, President Monge went on. He said that he will answer Ortega's letter in the next few hours, taking into consideration the views expressed by the state Security Council, which analyzed the letter yesterday. Oretega's letter was delivered to all of the regional leaders, who were visited by special envoys. When asked about Humberto Ortega's threat the guerrilla groups would mine all the ports from Guatemala to Panama, the president answered: It is an incredible threat.

He added that although he has not heard this threat in the lips of any Nicaraguan Government official, he believes it because he learned about it from Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez. The threat was termed incredible because it is a reaction to a domestic development -- because it cannot be denied that there is a war in Nicaragua. Unfortunately, [words indistinct]. In reaction to all this, reprisals might be taken against other countries which have nothing to do with the situation, Monge added.

Further on, the president said that although he acknowledges that the Salvadoran guerrilla movement exists and is still active on the eve of the election, and that there is also a war in Nicaragua, he still hopes that there will be no war or confrontation between two Central American countries. In the view of the president, a confrontation between any two regional countries might envelop the other Central American nations, so he hopes that the efforts made will yield results. Once again, President Monge reiterated his confidence in the actions of the Contadora Group and in the pacification process that began over a year ago to find a [word indistinct] solution to the area conflict.

Ortega's letter to the Central American leaders does not mention the withdrawal of the Cuban, Soviet, and other soldiers and advisers who are in Nicaragua. He simply protests the presence of military forces in Central America, blaming the United States for the intensification of tensions and of the internal war in Nicaragua. Concerning this, the president said that (?they) have not said that they will withdraw the military advisers, yet over 1 and 1/2 years ago we declared that Costa Rica wants all the military elements, regardless of nationality, to leave Central America and that we would rather have Central Americans resolving our own problems without foreign interference.

Ortega says in his letter that the grave situation created by the intensification of the U.S. military presence in the area is a true obstacle that keeps the work of the three commissions and the technical group from advancing within the Contadora framework. This forces us to aim all our efforts at overcoming this obstacle to achieve the conditions needed for achieving new and definitive advances in the process of Contadora, he added. The Nicaraguan Government wants the U.S. Government to be asked to stop beefing up its troops in Central America and to withdraw the contingents that it has sent in recent weeks along with the planes, aircraft carriers, and war ships that it has recently deployed in the area.

He notes that Nicaragua has requested the technical and military means to defend itself. The Nicaraguan regime blames the United States for intensifying the undeclared war by staging terrorist attacks on economic and military facilities, using planes, helicopters, and speedboats in what virtually constitutes an air and naval war.

Ortega's letter notes, moreover, that indiscriminate actions such as the mining of the Nicaraguan ports represent a serious threat on international maritime traffic. He added that the U.S. Government's $21 million request to Congress for the armed and organized forces fighting against the Managua government further aggravates the situation.

In pointing out that unfortunately the civil war in El Salvador has not been included in the agenda of the Contadora peace process, thus weakening this initiative's chances to have an effect on the regional crisis as a whole, he warns that the United States might stage a military intervention in both El Salvador and Nicaragua. Ortega's letter at all times blames the United States for the situation that for several months has been affecting the Central American area. Finally, he requests Costa Rica's support for its negotiations with the Contadora Group, adding that Nicaragua will maintain unchanged its willingness to negotiate and its determination to achieve a peaceful solution to the area conflicts.

POLICE, SALVADORANS CLASH AT SAN JOSE CATHEDRAL

PA260106 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1330 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] There were some disturbances yesterday at 1730 in San Jose caused by leftist Salvadorans who were selling, carrying posters, and making a good bit of noise in front of the cathedral during a religious service to commemorate the anniversary of the death of Monsignor Romero. The metropolitan police had to intervene when the civil guard who is stationed in the cathedral was attacked by some of the Salvadorans. A free-for-all ensued, and some people were injured and arrested. The injured were given medical attention by the Red Cross. The incidents between the authorities and the Salvadoran demonstrators carrying placards and selling phamphlets about Msgr Arnulfo Romero's death lasted 2 hours. The authorities reported that eight were arrested and the Red Cross reported that several were treated for blows and injuries received during the clashes with Costa Rican authorities.

EL SALVADOR

REPORTAGE ON VOTE COUNT, EARLY RETURNS

CCE Rejects Fraud Chances

PA261459 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0453 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] San Salvador, 25 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- With no official information as yet on the Salvadoran Elections held today, 25 March, the Central Electoral Council [CCE] began a press conference at 2200 (0400 GMT) to explain the impossibility of electoral fraud. CCE President Armando Rodriguez Eguizabel, representative of the National Conciliation Party, insisted at the press conference "that the existence of an electoral fraud is impossible." According to the council, the computer that will supply the definitive data on the elections currently has blank files. The balloting data will be fed in tomorrow morning in the presence of all the parties' representatives, the CCE president indicated.

In journalistic circles in San Salvador, a rumor circulated late last night that the engineer in charge of the data computation had resigned and that the vote count had been suspended. The CCE explained at the press conference that it had no report of any such resignation. "Last Friday, the engineer finished his work on the department for which he is responsible, and since then the parties are the ones who are scrutinizing the vote count," a CCE member stated. The CCE reported tonight that no information will be released until tomorrow, and that at no time has it announced that the vote count has been suspended.

The CCE president held the press conference amid a strong state of tension, and explained that the disturbances observed today in the organization of the elections had been caused by guerrilla sabotage.

When the presidents of the electoral boards left CCE headquarters on Saturday night with the ballot boxes and ballots, the power outage that affected San Salvador prevented the distribution of the necessary equipment for the elections, a CCE member stated. After the power outage, some electoral board presidents threw away or lost the tickets; others were scared and did not show up today in the polling places, the council members explained.

The CCE president said that they have not received any official criticism, referring to questions about whether the Democratic Action Party had presented the necessary documents to impugn the elections for electoral fraud. Journalistic circles in El Salvador commented tonight on the existence of strong tensions for CCE decisions, since there were abnormalities that occurred during the electoral process. According to the Council: "This time the Salvadorans voted for peace. They did not supply any further information.

PDC Claims Lead

PA261311 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1003 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] San Salvador, 26 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Jose Napoleon Duarte, Christian Democratic Party [PDC] candidate, remained in the lead in the vote count for the Salvadoran presidential elections, according to figures supplied by the PDC. The count of votes by this party is the only one known, because the Central Electoral Council [CCE] decided last night not to supply any information until the afternoon of 26 March, despite the fact that it had previously announced that it would supply the initial figures two hours after the polling places closed. Jose Napoleon Duarte himself reported at the PDC headquarters that, with 70 percent of the votes counted, the various groups have the following percentages:

Christian Democratic Party [Jose Napoleon Duarte] 46.0 percent, 158,501 votes

Nationalist Republic Alliance [Major Roberto D'Aubuisson] 27.8 percent, 95,817 votes

National Conciliation Party [Francisco Jose Guerrero] 18.5 percent, 63,388 votes

Democratic Action [Rene Fortin Magana] 3.6 percent, 12,417 votes

Salvadoran Popular Party [Francisco Quinonez Avila] 2.0 percent, 7,105 votes

The remaining parties have not received over 1 percent of the votes. These figures will not be valid until the CCE supplies its figures. However, the figures are a significant adjustment to the most recent counts. If the PDC musters as many votes as reported, a run off election would have to be held between the two political parties with the most votes.

Unofficial Results Announced

PA261531 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1437 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Raul Beltran report]

[Text] The Central Electoral Council [CCE] is urgently requesting the services and technical aid of a team of engineers due to the resignation -- reported yesterday -- tendered by engineer Norman Bojorquez and other American computer technicians connected with the final vote counting, which is slated to begin early today. Early results, especially from the interior are already available.

After consulting this morning with 14 Salvadoran departments and the presidents of the departmental electoral boards, and after obtaining certain unofficial data from high-level CCE sources and the political parties in the capital, last-minute results are available after counting the votes of half of the Salvadoran municipalities -- 261 municipalities in all -- particularly the 220 municipalities where elections were held yesterday. Here are the unofficial results available for 110 municipalities. The official information will have to come from the CCE. I repeat, these are the reports obtained from the departmental capitals, from the departmental electoral boards, which are also official CCE bodies.

In first place, with 43.03 percent of the vote, is the Christian Democratic Party [PDC]; 28.07 percent goes to ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance], 17.04 percent goes to the National Conciliation Party [PCN]. Here are the figures obtained by 0830 this morning during a special last-minute tour made by this station's correspondents: PDC, 355,655 votes; ARENA, 216,132 votes; and PCN, 130,694 votes. These figures add up to over a half million voters throughout the national territory and represent exactly half the municipalities that make up El Salvador.

On another subject, MERECEN [Stable Centrist Republican Movement], which is led by Dr Juan Ramon Rosales y Rosales, has already announced that it will file a challenge at the CCE to the validity of the recently concluded electoral process, which definitely seems headed for a second round in 30 days.

Computer Begins Official Count

PA261934 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1805 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Here is a last-minute report from the Central Electoral Council [CCE] for YSKL listeners: At 1120 this morning, the seal on the entrance door of the CCE computer room was broken in order to start the vote counting process and to begin issuing figures on the elections that were held yesterday, Sunday.

CCE President Dr Armando Rodriguez Eguizabal, accompanied by the other CCE members, was present at the ceremony. He had the honor of breaking the seal, which was imposed at 1830 yesterday to prevent unauthorized people from entering the computer room. At that time, the machines were turned off and returned to the zero point. They were turned on again at 1130 today by computer expert engineer Cesar Pereira. The computer will begin to provide data on yesterday's elections.

In addition to the president, the following CCE members were present at the ceremony: Dr (Jorge Alberto Hernandez Gutierrez), Dr Enrique Eduardo Campos, Dr Jaime Trabanino Llovel, engineer Roberto Meza and (Roberto Urdaneta). Representatives from political parties and the local and foreign press were also present.

Beginning today, official data on yesterday's elections will be issued. Figures or other data released by political parties are not official. The CCE reiterates that any figures that have been released are unofficial. The parties have the right to give the figures that they consider appropriate, but they are not official until confirmed by the CCE over the national radio and television network, which will begin to release information at 1200. However, you should remain tuned to YSKL, because we will be giving immediate reports of events as they occur from the CCE offices, apart from participating in the network.

Official Results Still Pending

PA262358 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2331 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] San Salvador, 26 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Almost 24 hours after the voting closed, the "hopes" of getting any elections results seem to be fading. Reliable sources told ACAN-EFE shortly after 2300 GMT today that many departmental lists containing the results of the ballot boxes from each of El Salvador's 14 departments have not yet arrived at San Salvador. There is also confusion among political parties. While some, like the Christian Democratic Party, this morning released results obtained directly by them, this afternoon some party headquarters were almost empty of members. The Central Elections Council has been postponing all day the announcement of the first official results.

Official Results Begin 28 Mar

PA270250 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0210 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The Central Electoral Council informs citizens that as of tomorrow, it will begin giving partial electoral results as documents are received from the electoral boards in the various departments.

COPREFA CHIEFS GIVES VIEWS ON ELECTIONS

PA262327 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1235 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Interview with Colonel Ricardo Aristides Cienfuegos, Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA, chief, by unidentified reporter on 25 March in San Salvador -- recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified reporter] Colonel Cienfuegos, what is your opinion of today's elections?

[Cienfuegos] The Salvadoran Armed Forces General Staff Chief and I have just returned from a tour of inspection and everything so far has turned out according to what the Armed Forces had expected and planned for. The people received all guarantees to exercise their right to vote for the candidates of their choice. We realize there were some failures, but they did not interfere with the people's desire to express their will at the polls.

[Reporter] How do you feel about the Armed Forces participation in the election?

[Cienfuegos] As a member of the Armed Forces I should not be the one to say it, but the results have been satisfactory -- unfortunately, not 100 percent, because there were some problems we did not foresee. However, we managed to solve them.

SAN SALVADOR AFFECTED BY ELECTRICAL BLACKOUT

PA270221 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0057 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] San Salvador, 26 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Many sectors of the Salvadoran capital were left without electricity at 1730 local time (2330 GMT), for as yet undetermined reasons.

Spokesman for the electric company told ACAN-EFE that approximately two-thirds of the Salvadoran capital have been affected by this new blackout. Last weekend, shortly before the Sunday presidential elections, San Salvador and a large sector of the country were left without electricity after several guerrilla attacks against electric posts and towers.

AUSTRIA OBTAINS RELEASE OF THREE DETAINEES

AU261050 Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in German 25 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] San Salvador -- Three assistants of the archbishop of San Salvador who had been detained since July 1983 have been released by the Salvadoran authorities. These persons, who had worked as social welfare aides in refugee camps in the care of the Catholic Church, had been charged with "collaboration with the guerrillas." Since their arrest, numerous Austrian church and state authorities -- such as, for example, Johann Weber, bishop of the Graz-Seckau diocese, the Caritas organization, and members of the Styrian provincial government -- had been pleading for their release. In August 1983 Foreign Minister Erwin Lanc directly appealed to the Salvadoran foreign minister on their behalf. Two of the released social welfare workers are to move to Austria with their dependents in the next few days. Another assistant of the archbishop of San Salvador had been released earlier and arrived in Austria with his dependents at the end of February.

MILITARY ACTIVITY REPORTED AROUND COUNTRY

PA260320 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0220 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Here is a report on the results of this morning's battles in Tejutepeque, Cabanas Department, where the Commander Felipe Pena Mendoza vanguard units and battalions attacked Cazadores troops stationed in Tejutepeque. Here is the report:

[Begin relay] Salvadoran people. We are reporting from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front on a new and impressive victory of our group of Commander Felipe Pena Mendoza vanguard units and battalions. Attention: Tejutepeque has fallen in the hands of our [word indistinct]. At 1330 today, 25 March, the troops of our popular army seized total control of the town of Tejutepeque in Cabanas Department. After almost 12 hours of intense and constant fighting, our fighters overcame the pockets of resistance of two companies of Detachment No 2 of Sensuntepeque which were stationed in Tejutepeque. The reinforcements sent by the fascist high command to try to save these two companies from defeat could not fulfill their mission because the troops refused to continue advancing, because they knew that they would encounter our revolutionary units.

At 1920, Tejutepeque continues to be under total guerrilla control. We are reporting to our people that the high command deployed the Air Force heavily. A-37 and O-2 planes and UH-1H helicopters were used in the battle, opening fire on defenseless civilians. We are denouncing the indiscriminate air attacks by the regime, which is attempting to prevent the defeat of the troops trained by the Yankee advisers.

We want to report to our people that today the Commander Felipe Pena Mendoza vanguard units and battalions have recovered the following war material based on preliminary reports: 35 M-16 rifles, 2 M-60 machine guns, 2 M-79 grenade lauchers, 2 PRC-77 military communications radios, and other military supplies.

e must also report to our people that 32 soldiers surrendered in the face of our revo-utionary weapons. They are now being held as FMLN prisoners of war.

'e repeat that these reports are preliminary. We hope that tomorrow, 26 March, we can ·rovide the final results of this successful operation in which the enemy has preferred .o flee rather than fight our guerrilla units. This successful operation by our van-;uard battalions and units joins the battles waged by the FMLN in recent days throughout :he national territory. The FMLN victory in Tejutepeque, on the road from San Vicente :o Zacatecoluca, and the battles in eastern El Salvador show that the popular war will :ontinue after the big electoral farce held by the enemy today during which our people ıave expressed their repudiation and contempt. These elections are an insult to our)eople who once again have confirmed that only through the organized struggle for better living and working conditions and with the struggle of [words indistinct] the FMLN ıchieving new victories for our people.

'Long live the Heroes and Martyrs of 28 February 1977 campaign" This is all for now. Ve will be giving more information tomorrow. This has been your correspondent reporting from the command post. [end relay]

Rebels Report Fighting

PA261750 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] On this Sunday of national dignity, FMLN forces fought the plans for foreign intervention by taking control of sectors of the three strategic roads in eastern El Salvador: Coast, Pan-American, and Military. These are routes of victory for our people. There our forces hit and tired the troops of the dictatorship.

During attacks on enemy positions in the outskirts of San Miguel, our units opened fire on a helicopter of the dictatorship. Serveral crew members were wounded and the helicopter had to withdraw from the combat area.

Sapper units blew up power line towers, and eastern El Salvador was left without electricity. On this day of popular fighting, FMLN units attacked and damaged the Torrecilla microwave communications site in Bolivar, La Union Department. This provoked serious communications problems in eastern El Salvador. The microwave communications tower of El Pacayal was also sabotaged.

In these clashes, our units inflicted dozens of casualties on the dictatorship's troops.

San Vicente, Cabanas Clashes

PA262305 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish 1830 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Our military maneuver entitled People's Unity Will Defeat the Imperialist Intervention, carried out within the framework of FMLN's Long Live the Heroes and Martyrs of 28 February 1977 national campaign, began on 24 March at 0645 with the annihilation of a company of the Tehuacan Battalion, headquartered at the San Vicente 5th Brigade, and of enemy positions at the Jiboa sugar mill, near (El Tumbo) Hill Montenegro, Dos Quebradas, on the slopes of the Chichontepec Volcano. The enemy (?was attacked) with 80-mm and 81-mm artillery fire.

One hour later, a push-and-pull light aircraft arrived in the sector, and dropped rockets. This aircraft soon had to leave the scene without any accomplishment, because of our guerrilla fire. Troops from the Cazadores Battalion that were sent to reinforce the Tehuacan Battalion were (?ambushed) by a guerrilla unit near Los Pozos canton, south of San Vicente. In view of the casulties suffered by the Cazadores and Tehuacan Battalions, the regime ordered the bombing of nearby towns El Caracol and [name indistinct], endangering people's lives (?on the eve) of election day. Some 45 minutes later, our vanguard units and guerrilla columns concluded the maneuver, which was another victory over the enemy, and took over a wide stretch of the road, and the Negro River Bridge.

We recovered the following weapons during this operation: 40 M-16 rifles, 2 M-60 machine guns, 3 PRC radios, 1 90-mm cannon, with 10 grenades, 1 M-79 grenade launcher, 15,000 rounds of 5.56-cal ammunition, and 3,000 rounds of 7.62 cal ammunition. In addition, the enemy suffered 30 casualties, which included two lieutenants. We captured a total of 16 POW's. The weapons we recovered on this and other clashes from the puppet regime will be used by our guerrilla fighters who fire [word indistinct] at the puppet regime and the (?invading imperialist).

Our national campaign, Long Live the Heroes and Martyrs of 28 February 1977, continues to advance!

During clashes in San Vicente Department on 24 March and yesterday, 25 March, in Tejutepeque, Cabanas Department, we recovered 84 weapons from the Cazadores Battalion for the arsenals of our victorious people, in only 2 days of heavy fighting: 75 U.S.-made M-16 rifles, 4 M-60 machine guns, 3 M-79 grenade launchers, 1 60-mm mortar, and 1 90-mm cannon, for a total of 84 weapons. We also recovered 5 PRC-77 military communications radios.

Here is more information on the popular victories, of our vanguard units and guerrilla columns in the San Vicente and Cabanas Departments: On 24 and 25 March [passage indistinct].

Rebels Claim Victory

PA270225 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] According to a war bulletin from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front, on 25 March elements of the vanguard units battalions group Commander Felipe Pena Mendoza began military maneuvers known as Our People Repudiate the Electoral Farce against the government's puppet army. The attack consisted in the attack on two companies of Detachment No 2 of Sensuntepeque, [words indistinct], Cabanas Department. The attack began at 0200 to dislodge the troops later in the morning and assume full control of the [words indistinct].

At the same time, our vanguard units carried out a maneuver to occupy all high places in the area, chasing the enemy troops who fled from Tejutepeque. At 1200, our forces engaged in heavy fighting with an enemy company that fell into a trap set up by our forces, as they tried to reinforce the positions under our attack. The company was forced to flee in disarray, supported by two A-37 planes, two O-2 lighter planes, and two helicopters. Our forces chased the enemy up to 1 km before [word indistinct].

The successful results of this operation were: 35 M-16 rifles, 2 M-79 grenade-launchers, two M-60 machine guns, 2 military transmitters, [words indistinct] war materiel. In addition, one helicopter was seriously damaged by our anti-aircraft fire. Besides, we captured 32 prisoners who surrendered to our forces.

Our people repudiate the electoral farce. Long live the heroes and martyrs of 28 February of 1977! United to fight until final victory! Revolution or death, we will win! [signed] Commander Salvador Guerra.

PROPAGANDA, EXPLOSIONS USED TO PROTEST ELECTIONS

PA261300 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Report by correspondent Vidal Fuentes from the Anastasio Aquino Parecentral Front -- live relay in progress]

[Text] ...in San Vicente in support of the FMLN's political and military activities and as part of the campaign Long Live the Heroes and Martyrs of 28 February 1977, on 25 March our hardened people's militias simultaneously distributed propaganda in the following places: San Felipe, Apastepeque, La Galera, and San Vicente. They also sabotaged electrical power by exploding a post supporting the cables carrying energy from San Vicente to Zacatecoluca. This action was carried out by the people's militias on the stretch of road between San Vicente and Tecoluca, near the Jiboa sugar mill. As a result, Tecoluca and part of the city of Zacatecoluca were left without light.

The purpose of these actions by our people's militias is to support the FMLN's political-military operations and to repudiate the electoral farce planned by Yankee imperialism to politically justify intervention in our country. The people have already chosen: No to exploitation; no to intervention.

Let us all struggle and fight. Elections with intervention -- that is the exploiters' plan. Government of broad participation is the workers' alternative.

FDR'S UNGO CITED ON 'FAILURE' OF ELECTIONS

PA262317 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2830 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] FDR President Guillermo Manuel Ungo has described the elections in El Salvador as a political failure. The FDR leader said that the United States will try to cover up this electoral failure and dismiss its defects as being of minor importance. The revolutionary leader added that the political parties will now have more grounds for invoking against him the well known electoral fraud that will serve to create more differences and internal disputes within the various rightist parties that make up the Salvadoran Government. In the Sandinist Drumbeat newscast, we offer a statement by FDR President Guillermo Manuel Ungo.

[Begin Ungo recording] Well, as we have been saying all along, our advances in the military and political fields continue. This means an additional weakening, another step in the increasing political and military deterioration of the Salvadoran Government and the Reagan administration. This means that our positions and proposals gain more credibility and viability as time goes on, that we continue onward toward victory, and that we continue to prevent a greater U.S. intervention and an escalation of the conflict. Our proposal for negotiations leading to a government with general participation is still applicable. It is completely illusory to assume that only Washington and the Salvadoran Government can impose with blood and fire a political, or rather, a military solution in El Salvador.

Therefore, we believe that the electoral failure, the fact that the elections could only be held amid great fraud, vices, defects, failures, and disorder indicates that there is a need for a peaceful and democratic atmosphere, which is not possible without the participation of our front. [end recording]

CORRECTION TO ITEM ON PRTC-FMLN ORGANIZATION

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "PRTC-FMLN Organization Condemns Elections," published on page P 8 of the 23 March Latin America DAILY REPORT:

First paragraph, line one should read: [Text] The PRTC [Revolutionary Party of Central American Workers] -FMLN today seized four... (correcting expansion of PRTC)

GUATEMALA

MEJIA MAY VETO CONSTITUTION OVER BELIZE CLAIM

PA261815 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Guatemalan Head of State Oscar Mejia Victores may veto the country's new constitution if deputies fail to include Guatemala's claim to Belize in the draft.

EIGHT RECEIVE ASYLUM FROM ECUADORAN EMBASSY

PA262125 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Eight members of three Guatemalan families, including a grandparent and some grandsons, are under diplomatic protection at the home of Ecuadoran Ambassador to Guatemala Cesar Roman Gonzalez, it has been reported.

The diplomat said that after talking to his government in Quito he decided to grant protection to the members of the three families, whose names were Alvrado, Archila, and Molina. The eight people went to the Ecuadoran Embassy yesterday afternoon. A spokesman for the families asked the ambassador's secretary for permission to talk to the ambassador, who received the group's leader, a retired accountant. The latter explained that the three families feel that they are being persecuted and that their lives are in danger, which is why they asked for protection from the Ecuadoran Government.

After receiving his government's instructions, the ambassador told the Guatemalan Foreign Ministry that these people would be under the protection of the Ecuadoran Government henceforth. The ambassador asked Government Minister Gustavo Lopez for security and transportation for the eight refugees as, given the lack of space in the embassy, he had decided to take them to his home. The refugees are still in the ambassador's home, guarded by four policemen. Thd ambassador indicated that two small children are among them.

HONDURAS

FOREIGN MINISTER SIGNS STATEMENT WITH COSTA RICA

PA261810 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras in Spanish 1145 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The foreign ministers of Costa Rica and Honduras here released a joint statement reaffirming their governments' decision to find an overall peaceful, regional settlement to the Central American crisis.

Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez concluded his visit to Honduras after signing the 18-point statement with his Honduran colleague, Dr Edgardo Paz Barnica. Honduras and Costa Rica reaffirmed the firm bonds of friendship between the countries, reinforced today by the popular origin of their goverments and their acceptance of the democratic, representative, and pluralistic system as the only political formula guaranteeing the actual exercise of freedom and respect for human rights. They reiterated absolute respect for the principles of international law which would rule relations between states, conforming to the UN and OAS Charters.

They called the attention of the international community to the need for finding the proper means to guarantee the security of the Central American area, based on the principles of nonintervention, nonacceptance of threats and the use of force, and the acceptance of peaceful means for the solution of controversies between the states. Both foreign ministers reiterated their governments' support for the Contadora Group's efforts to solve the conflict disturbing peace in the Central American region. Paz Barnica and Gutierrez pointed to their governments' obligation to propitiate their countries' development to attain higher social and economic levels, respect of human rights, and freedom, through proper political conditions.

The declaration also appeals to the international community to promote a plan of economic, financial, commercial, and technological cooperation that would help the Central American nations in their domestic efforts to achieve peaceful development.

The two officials underlined the importance of the meeting of governors of the International Development Bank, IDB -- to open soon at Punta del Este, Uruguay -- which, among other issues, will evaluate the conclusions reached in Brussels and adopt the actions to be taken for economic integration and development in Central America.

The foreign ministers of Honduras and Costa Rica considered the need for better and greater access to the international market, and noted that the U.S. Caribbean Basin Initiative is an example of behavior that should be adopted by other developed states. The two ranking officials also supported the sober concern expressed in the report of the U.S. Bipartisan Commission for Central America over the political, economic, social, and security problems of the region.

They also analyzed their recent visit to Washington and backed the declaration of the health ministers of Central America and Panama on the urgent needs in that sector. They expressed interest in intensifying bilateral relations and renewing efforts to cooperate in common projects to consolidate their economic independence, perpetuate peace and security in the area, and make the required efforts to revitalize all aspects of the cooperation integration program.

The 18-point statement was signed last Saturday by Dr Edgardo Paz Barnica and by Carlos Jose Gutierrez, foreign ministers of Honduras and Costa Rica.

BOMB EXPLOSIONS REPORTED IN SAN PEDRO SULA

PA261659 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras in Spanish 1145 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The Cinchonero group has reappeared in San Pedro Sula, and in an open challenge to local police they hurled two bombs at police stations at 0100 this morning. One unidentified person was slightly injured in the action.

In another action, an explosion partially damaged the Salvadoran Consulate in San Pedro Sula, located in the Rio de Piedra district. There was no victims as a result of the blast. So far, the police have not provided further details of these actions.

Meanwhile, other reports revealed that four Honduran women were machine-gunned by Guatemalan police in the Chiquimula sector, Guatemala. They departed Honduras on Thursday on their way to the United States, traveling by land. As they crossed the Chiquimula sector, police opened fire on the vehicle, killing three of the women and wounding the fourth. The women were sisters. All are daughters of Cristina Reyes, a San Pedro Sula resident, and were identified as Marlene, Reina, Mayra, and China. Informed about her daughters, Cristina Reyes went into shock and had to be admitted to the Leonardo Martinez hospital in San Pedro Sula. Two policemen have been arrested as accomplices to this crime. The bodies of the victims were found in a ravine off the highway, according to early reports received from Guatemala. More details are expected today through the Honduran Foreign Ministry.

BOMBS KILL 1, WOUND 1 IN CAPITAL, SAN PEDRO SULA

PA261515 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1411 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 26 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- One person was killed and one wounded when four bombs exploded in this capital and in San Pedro Sula, northern Honduras, this morning. Two bombs were placed in the building that houses the Supreme Court in Tegucigalpa and near the Army Officers Training School. A watchman at the Honduran Supreme Court was killed by the explosion which caused considerable damage to the building.

In San Pedro Sula bombs were placed near police stations in the Barandillas and Medina neighborhoods south and west of the city. An unidentified person was wounded in the attacks, for which no political group has claimed credit thus far. The San Pedro Sula police suspect a man who passed by the sites of the attacks minutes before the explosions, but no one has been arrested. An official source confirmed that the roads that lead to Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula are being patrolled by the police who are checking the identity of travelers.

NICARAGUA

HIGH-LEVEL COURIERS ASK CONTADORA FOR HELP

PA262020 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] A high-level commission from the Nicaraguan Government has delivered letters to the Contadora Groups Governments of Panama, Venezuela, and Colombia, in which Nicaragua reiterates the urgent need to undertake emergency actions in order to contain the escalation of aggression and the worsening of the crisis in Central America.

Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera and Junta Minister Secretary Rodrigo Reyes delivered the Sandinist revolution's call to begin special actions in order to halt U.S. plans for the region. Deputy Minister Talavera said that he met with Panamanian President Jorge Illueca and Panamanian Vice President Carlos Ozores last Wednesday to discuss the situation and to deliver the letter.

On Thursday and Friday he met with Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo and Venezuelan Foreign Minister Isidro Morales Paul. He reiterated the same message to both. We found all the governments to be sympathetic and concerned, Talavera remarked in reviewing the meetings.

U.S. ACCUSED OF WAGING 'WAR' BY MINES, SABOTAGE

PA262036 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 19 Mar 84 p 2

[Editorial: "Reagan's War Affects the Nicaraguan People's Social and Economc Life" -- capitalized passage as published]

[Excerpts] THE WAR IMPOSED ON US BY THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION ASIDE FROM ITS NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES SUCH AS THE LOSS OF HUMAN LIFE, HAS ALREADY INFLICTED SERIOUS DAMAGE THROUGH THE DESTRUCTION OF MATERIAL ASSETS.

Our people's enemies have destroyed fuel storage deposits in areas such as Corinto. They have destroyed production cooperatives in various parts of the country. They have inflicted serious damage on our fishing vessels. They have begun damaging international vessels, for example, the Panamanian flag ship Los Caribes, which entered our waters bringing medicine and merchandise. With their latest action of placing mines in waters under our jurisdictionoff our Atlantic and Pacific coasts, they are trying to isolate us commercially from the world. They are trying to keep us from exporting our products and from importing the raw materials and merchandise indispensable to our people.

Another recent action undertaken to harm our people is sabotage, which is planned in Honduras, and which resulted in the destruction of two butane gas tank trucks last 7 March after they entered our territory, as has already been reported. The destruction of those two vehicles may cause a shortage of butane gas, which could seriously affect Nicaraguan households.

We must not forget that the urgency of providing food, medicine, clothing, and shoes to our fighters requires huge investments, which our government is making. To a certain extent, the circumstances in the rural and urban sectors will impose hardships on our popular sectors due to shortages of basic articles for their subsistence.

EDITORIAL CONDEMNS U.S. 'MARITIME BLOCKADE'

PA230448 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 22 Mar 84 p 3

[Editorial: "Adventurous Terrorism"]

[Text] There might have been quite a few minutes between the two incidents, but for history they will always be simultaneous: While the Soviet ambassador delivered medicine to the Nicaraguan people, a Soviet vessel -- coincidentally delivering oil to Nicaragua -- became the victim of state terrorism being carried out by the Reagan administration against our country.

The consequences remain to be seen, however, and history will have the last word. In fact, many things will have to occur before we can know the outcome, which could be war or peace. As Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Government Junta said in Mexico: "War and not peace is near," as determined by the U.S. Government.

The escalation of U.S. attacks against our country has already reached the level of a maritime blockade, which began with the attack on El Bluff, continued with sabotage on the Netherlands vessel Geopotes VI in the first days of March, followed by the explosion of a mine that damaged ship, Los Caribes, and now the incident involving the Soviet vessel Lugansk. These are acts of piracy against the interests of countries not involved in war with the United States. The mining of our coasts and the resulting damage to vessels of other countries -- in addition to being indiscriminate -- become a form of terrorism extended to the international field.

Free navigation, guaranteed by international law, is being criminally attacked through the terrorist acts suffered by Nicaragua and other countries. By violating such fundamental rights, the U.S. Government has flaunted moral, political, and coexistence standards, further violating international law, and at the same time contradicts all the arguments it has used in favor of its foreign policy against our country.

These attacks, of unlimited and dangerous consequences, speak for themselves. Above all, they are irrational. What would the Yankee government think -- or do -- if one of its victims decided to mine U.S. ports and territorial waters?

In normal relations between people, it is said that the one who hits deserves the same treatment, but in international relations this policy would have disastrous consequences. Fortunately for mankind, the other countries (in the case including the USSR, also a victim of the Yankee state terrorism) do not act as irresponsibly as the United States; they do not have the same imperialist objectives and have not made attacks against weak peoples an official policy.

We recall the numerous similar provocations suffered by the USSR during the Yankee attacks on Vietnam, when in May 1972 Nixon ordered the bombing of Soviet vessels in Vietnamese waters, and in Cuba where Soviet vessels suffered similar attacks. We must also remember, however, that nothing affected the spirit of solidarity between the USSR and Cuba and that the U.S. Government was not able to prevent their victory, despite all its criminal efforts and its stupid provocations.

The Nicaraguan people know how irrationally imperialism has acted against them and are also aware of the dignified and courageous stance the government has maintained in the face of the aggressor's arrogance. Someone should teach Reagan the lessons of history.

ORTEGA, RAMIREZ DISCUSS U.S., CONTRAS, ELECTION

PA241831 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0142 GMT 24 Mar 84

["Face the People" program, with Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction; Junta member Sergio Ramirez Mercado; and other FSLN and government officials, at the Msgr Lezcano neighborhood in Managua -- live]

[Excerpts] [Ortega] Good evening companeros of the Msgr Lezcano neighborhood. While we make efforts to preserve the lives of our children, youths, elderly people, women, men -- the Nicaraguan people -- we continue to face daily the aggressive policy, the state terrorism carried out by the U.S. Government against the Nicaraguan people, the policy that the U.S. Government directs against the Nicaraguan people. While we make efforts to sow life, the U.S. Government tries to sow death. This is the great difference.

At dawn today, as a cruel and destructive action of the U.S. Government, the tools of the U.S. Administration -- whom we all know are the former Somozist guards and traitors -- this time operating from Honduras, from which they have been infiltrating these counterrevolutionaries, attacked the town of San Rafael del Norte. Only a few days ago, 16 companeros of this same town fell while fighting against these forces, who are tools of the U.S. Administration. This time the town was attacked with small arms and mortars, from the early hours until 1130 today. This action resulted in 8 companeros killed and 15 civilian companeros -- who were also defending the position -- wounded.

The counterrevolutionaries' intention was to take over the town, but they faced the organized resistance of the heroic population of San Rafael del Norte, who managed to repel the attack and prevent the takeover of the town.

Nevertheless, there were new victims. The U.S. Government took more lives from the Nicaraguan people simply because the U.S. Administration does not want a free Nicaraguan people, a Nicaraguan people conducting efforts in all the social and productive aspects to improve their own conditions. It does not agree with the type of justice promoted by the Sandinist people's revolution and wants to impose on us a regime of oppression, terror, and exploitation, like the one suffered by the Nicaraguan people during Somozism.

Dedicating this Face the People program to the heroic people of San Rafael del Norte, we will now answer your questions. [applause]

[Unidentified questioner] What measures has the government taken to clear mines from our waters in order to enable ships to arrive at our ports now blocked by imperialism?

[Ramirez] Regarding the question concerning the entrance of ships to Nicaraguan ports, we must say that what the CIA is trying to do by making commercial navigation to Nicaraguan ports insecure is to create the impression abroad that it is dangerous for a merchant ship to go near the Nicaraguan coasts. In this manner, the CIA wants to isolate us commercially. This is nothing new in the criminal and terrorist history of the CIA. These are actions they have carried out against other peoples of the world, as in the case of Vietnam and Cuba, to cite two recent examples, or also as they used to do in the past in Nicaraguan history, when they blocked Nicaraguan ports during the military interventions and their intervention during the Nicaraguan civil war. What we can tell our companeros and the world -- and the companies that insure ships and the shipping companies -- is that the Nicaraguan Government is a responsible government. Our government knows how to face in a rational and responsible manner the attacks to which we are unjustly being subjected, and we are making every possible effort to guarantee the safety of any merchant ships approaching our shores and the ships that bring the oil with which we produce the fuel we use.

So, we have stepped up our security measures to the maximum and are permanently watching with the technical means we have to ensure the safety of ships that come to Nicaragua's ports. Had we not been watching, and had we not adopted these measures, the results of the damage the CIA is trying to inflict on us would have been substantially larger.

True, they placed a mine that hit the Soviet oil tanker, but it is also true that this tanker is nevertheless unloading its oil in Nicaragua. [applause] They also placed a mine that exploded against a Panamanian-flag ship owned by NAMUCAR [Caribbean Multinational Shipping Line] in which Nicaragua, other Central American countries, Mexico, and Cuba own shares. Despite the damage it suffered, this ship was also able to unload the goods it was bringing to Nicaragua.

Therefore, as far as navigation is concerned, neither the insurance companies nor the shipping lines have changed Nicaragua's rating as a country safe for commercial navigation. This is also a victory of our people. It is a victory for our people, our security corps, our defense system, and our economic organizations because it must not be forgotten that we are waging an extremely unequal war.

It is unequal because the enemy has many more resources. The doors of the North American arsenals are open to the counterrevolution. The Somozist guard can take all the arms it wants -- the most sophisticated and expensive arms. If Mr Reagan finds himself in trouble because the Congress delays the approval of funds, he has a system to deliver the funds anyway. He plays tricks and then waits for the approval. So, they do not lack physical resources. They have all they need.

These methods are totally immoral, as well. The mining of ports to prevent ships from entering that are only bringing merchandise or oil to a poor country is a method that violates all international laws and all international agreements of which the U.S. Government itself is a signatory. There are international agreements that ban countries from engaging in this type of pirate action, actions that violate international morals.

Despite these advantages, even though we are at a physical disadvantage, and even though we are not resorting to immoral methods like those the imperialist enemy is using, our people are winning this war because they have a thousand times more morals than Mr Reagan's agents. [applause]

[Diaz de Martinez] Good evening members of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, cabinet ministers, and special guests. My name is Romelia Diaz de Martinez, and I belong to the Mothers of Heroes and Martyrs. My question is directed to Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra. We know that the counterrevolutionary chieftains, like traitors Eden Pastora, Robelo, and so forth, who are being accused of crimes against our people, if they are going...[changes thought] my question is, are they going to be extracted? [as heard]

[Ortega] These cases are already being tried in the appropriate courts. Something will undoubtedly emerge from the charges being raised by dozens of relatives of persons who have fallen victim of counterrevolutionary activities perpetrated by these agents of U.S. policy. First, there will have to be results, or there will have to be a ruling on the guilt of these delinquents, these criminals; and once these criminals are sentenced by the courts, steps will be taken immediately or automatically to request, to demand their extradition. In other words, the efforts will be made immediately after the criminals are sentenced. [applause]

[Moreno] Good evening companeros, Commander Daniel Ortega, Companero Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Daisy Moreno. I am the coordinator of the neighborhood committee of the Juan Emilio Menocal Community, previously known as Seminario and Loma Verde. I have only two questions.

As the mother of fighters who died in invasion attempts -- who always holds very high the banners dropped by my sons when they fell -- and in view of the amnesty decree issued by the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction and our vanguard, the FSLN, in favor of the Somozists, what will happen if these persons return to their previous ways? Given the U.S. approval of $21 million to massacre our people, what measure will our government adopt? What can we, the Sandinist Defense Committees, do?

[Ortega] The FSLN and the revolutionary government have promoted two measures. One of the measures has to do with the amnesty that can be sought by all Nicaraguans who have left the country. Many of these people have been confused or intimidated by enemy propaganda; others have even been kidnapped by the counterrevolution. The amnesty even applies to those who may have been guardsmen during Somoza's times who are now in Honduras or Costa Rica and have been involved in counterrevolutionary activities.

On the other hand, we have taken the step of trying those who are tools in the counter-revolutionary activities, those who lead these activities, that is, the counter-revolutionary chieftains to whom the companera referred when she asked if we were going to request their extradition after they are sentenced.

We must state that there is an exception to this measure granting amnesty or pardon: It does not apply to counterrevolutionary chiefs, that is, patrol leaders who are going around committing crimes, and who were also notorious for their crimes during Somoza's times. These people cannot take advantage of this decree. Those who were guardsmen but did not take part in horrendous crimes can take advantage of the decree.

We must note that over 1,000 people have taken advantage of this measure. Most of them were in Honduras and have returned to Nicaragua. Others were in Costa Rica, and some were even in the United States. They have taken advantage of this measure.

There is one detail, though. The camps that the CIA, that is, that the North American government has in Honduras in places near Nicaragua and the border area close to Nicaragua, in the wake of this decree...[changes thought] as even people who were in those camps have been taking advantage of this measure, of this decree, with all the guarantees and responsibility of the revolution, based on the word of the revolution, which is sacred in this and every case. [sentence as heard]

Therefore, since they have been taking advantage of the decree, the step that is being taken is to move the camps (?a little) away from the border area. That is, the CIA had the counterrevolutionary camps in Honduras very close to Nicaragua. Now they are moving them farther into Honduras, thinking that this way the refugees will have less chance of taking advantage of the decree.

Therefore, we can state that the amnesty is a positive measure and a means of giving an opportunity to Nicaraguans who are used as tools in the U.S. Government's actions through the CIA. On the other hand, we have been careful not to give this opportunity to criminals who were notorious during Somoza's time, or who have become so more recently because of their crimes or torturing. Also, we have not granted the opportunity to take advantage of this decree to the counterrevolutionary chiefs who are the main tools used by the U.S. Government to enforce this criminal policy.

[Calixto Maltes Bustos] Good evening, companero members of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction. My name is Jose Calixto Maltes Bustos. I am an active member of Positions Engineering Brigade [Brigade Ingeniera de Posiciones] No 3633, Military Construction.

Companeros, we are workers who clearly realize the course we have followed alongside our vanguard, the FSLN. My question is, what course will we take after we win the elections? We are sure of winning, and the purpose of my question is to let your response be heard not only by me but by the reactionaries and dissident parties. Thank you very much. [applause]

[Ramirez] Companero, we must tell you that when we say that Nicaragua will have truly free elections for the first time, we mean not only that we are going to count the votes well, honesty, and openly, but that these elections will be free in a much more important sense: Nobody is going to supervise them or intervene in them. [applause]

In order for us Nicaraguans to win the right to count the votes ourselves, there had to be an armed revolution. We had to pay a high price in blood. This struggle, of course, was waged not only for the right to count the votes, but also to gain other rights that the Nicaraguan people acquired with the armed [word indistinct]: the right to land, housing, health, literacy and, above all, dignity.

The dignity we won includes, above all, holding free elections in the full sense of the word, which is also important. It means holding elections that are not demagogic, that is, elections in which nobody offers something he will not fulfill. This is the way elections are held in many countries. In other countries, candidates vie for a 4-year post and begin by stating that they will turn the country upside down during those 4 years and that everything will be transformed overnight. This is what is called demagogy.

A country's problems cannot be solved in 4 or 6 years. A country's problems are solved only through a very long process, and several generations of Nicaraguans will participate in these transformations -- we, then our children, our grandchildren and so on and so forth. Therefore, noone can come here and say in regard to these elections that we are going to put an end to the supply and housing problem, that everyone will have electricity and drinking water in his home, that all of the streets are going to be paved, and that we will have a health center at every corner. This would be demagogy.

The first promise that any party that participates in these elections has to make, the first non-demagogic promise, is to say that the party pledges to struggle for and to defend Nicaragua's sovereignty. [applause, slogans] Nothing else can be done in this country without such determination to defend Nicaragua's sovereignty, because the real struggle here is under way. It is not only a question of whom to vote for. The real struggle which is under way here is between the honest and patriotic Nicaraguans and those bandits, those murderers who tried to seize San Rafael del Norte at daybreak today.

The real struggle is under way between the patriots who for the second time defended this town with their lives, with 8 or 10 lives, to keep the counterrevolutionaries from seizing it -- and there were fighters from Sandino's army who survived that struggle, who lost their lives there -- and the counterrevolutionaries who get a salary from the Reagan administration. That is where we are settling the matter of Nicaragua's sovereignty -- that is, between those who wish to return to the Somozist past and those of us who are defending Nicaragua so the Somozist past will not return.

We cannot separate the elections from this armed struggle for Nicaragua's sovereignty. Therefore, companeros, what will happen here after the elections? What will happen is that we will continue working to build this country. We will continue placing one stone atop the other until we build this building. We will not put up this building in the next 6 years. We will put up perhaps a wall, or a foundation, or a part of the floor. However, we will continue to add stones to that building in the future, and more sacrifices, more effort, more discipline, and more dedication on the part of all honest and patriotic Nicaraguans will be required to do so. [applause]

[Unidentified moderator] Companeros, as in all Face the People programs, at the end of this program Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega will make a brief statement.

[Ortega] Companero Francisco Reyes asked about the rightist parties' attitude, their manipulation, their calls for abstention, and so forth. I think that the effort being made in regard to the electoral situation and the aggression, where the possibility of participation by all parties who so desire is being discussed, logically tests the patriotic responsibility of those who really agree that in Nicaragua there has been a revolutionary change, and are against foreign intervention and a return to the past.

Those who, under these circumstances, are planning to abstain, those who try to boycott this effort, are making themselves conscious or unconscious accomplices of U.S. aggressive policies. The greatest enemy that Nicaragua and the Nicaraguan people have in this electoral effort is the United States. The United States does not want -- that is the U.S. Government, because when we speak of the United States we have to establish the difference, the U.S. Government does not want election in Nicaragua. The U.S. Government knows that in Nicaragua, the people would confirm, would ratify, the revolutionary process. This, of course, would be a defeat for the U.S. policies, which have attempted to sell the idea that the Nicaraguan people do not want a revolution, that the Nicaraguan people want a return to the past, that the people are not Sandinist. Those who adopt this attitude will simply be making themselves accomplices of the U.S. aggression. We must also say that those who remain silent in the face of the crimes that the Nicaraguan people suffer daily, in the face of the martyrdom that the Nicaraguan people suffer daily, are also conscious or unconscious accomplices of the imperialist aggressions. They are accomplices of these crimes even if they disguise themselves as Christians or democrats. They are neither Christians nor democrats.

They are helping the Somozist counterrevolutionaries and the U.S. Administration to murder the Nicaraguan people. They cannot come to us with the story that the problem here is that we Nicaraguans are killing ourselves. We are not killing ourselves, we are being murdered, which is quite different. They are murdering Nicaraguan children such as the 1-year-old girl they murdered a few weeks ago in the zone bordering Honduras. They are mudering Nicaraguans such as the 8-year-old boy and the other children they killed and injured who were 1-year-olds and even younger, as well as other cases in the zone bordering with Costa Rica.

They are murdering the Nicaraguans in San Rafael del Norte. We Nicaraguans are not killing ourselves. It is not the Nicaraguan people who are killing each other. It is the Reagan administration which is murdering these people, and the instrument the Reagan administration uses to murder these people is very clearly the former Somozist guards and the traitors. The other devices it uses to justify and cover up the muder of the Nicaraguan people are those people who disguise themselves as Christians, who disguise themselves as democrats, and who are really none of these things. They are anti-Christian, antidemocratic, they are the people's enemies.

They are making themselves the accomplices of the crimes against the Nicaraguan people. They say nothing, nothing, nothing at all. If an incident takes place abroad, they comment, but if it takes place here in Nicaragua, they say nothing, because they act, are totally identified with, and are directed by the U.S. Administration, which is waging war against the Nicaraguan people.

COMMANDER TORRES COMMENTS ON REBEL ATTACKS

PA231558 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Guerrilla and Brigade Commander Hugo Torres Jimenez, chief of the political section of the Sandinist People's Army, EPS, today told national and international newsmen at the (Mundo) Building that the situation that we are experiencing is extremely serious and that, in fact, the military conditions for an attack on us are present. The military leader said that the contra forces alone have never been a threat to the revolutionary government. He added that the rebels themselves have acknowledged this.

Commander Torres said that a dangerous war is imminent in view of the presence of special U.S. units off the Central American coasts and the training and weapons given to the Honduran Army by the U.S. Government, in addition to the Central Intelligence Agency's direct support for the contras [words indistinct].

Commander Torres said that over the past few months the counterrevolution has stepped up its attacks on towns, communities, and villages in clashes [word indistinct] that have resulted in deaths, kidnappings, and robberies. Commander Torres said that on 18 March, clashes between EPS troops and counterrevolutionary forces took place in (Macondo), (Sereno), and Cinco Pinos. In this clash, 16 of the people's fighting companeros from Battalion 36-46 of the Sandinist People's Militias were killed. Thirteen of these companeros were buried this morning in San Rafael del Norte.

More clashes with contra groups that were defeated at the end of December 1983 have taken place in mountainous areas of Nicaragua. These groups have reorganized in Honduras and have returned to Nicaragua in groups of 30, 40, and even 150 members. They attack economic targets and defenseless people.

On 21 March, some 150 counterrevolutionaries attacked (Patiota), 17 km northeast of Rio Blanco, and kidnapped [word indistinct] Rufino Lopez and Felicito Jarquin. The rebels fled to Honduras. The EPS clashed with the contras on 21 March. The battlefield was Somoto Hill, 7 km south of Somoto, the capital city of Madriz Department, where 22 enemies of the people bit the dust of defeat.

Commander Hugo Torres said that the contras' main force consists of 10,000 to 11,000 men who are in Honduras. Commenting on the casualties, he said that between 1982 and 1984 the people's forces inflicted 2,572 confirmed deaths and 529 injuries on the counterrevolutionaries. The counterrevolutionaries continue to spread terror, thanks to the Yankee support. The Reagan administration supplies them with new war equipment, such as Piranha-type launches, helicopters, cargo and combat planes, and other kinds of equipment with which the rebels are attacking economic targets.

Meanwhile, the people continue to repel all armed attacks with high morale and patriotic courage. At the same time, our government seeks peace and political, diplomatic support from friendly countries that admire the Sandinist revolutionary process.

WILLIAM RAMIREZ HEADS DELEGATION TO NORWAY

For Oslo AFTENPOSTEN reportage on the visit to Norway by the delegation led by William Ramirez Solorezano, minister of the Nicaraguan Institute of the Atlantic Coast, including his talks with Norwegian Foreign Minister Svenn Stray and Foreign Ministry and Storting Foreign Affairs Committee officials on Norwegian aid, see the Norway subsection of the Nordic Affairs section of the 27 March Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

FIDEL, RAUL CASTRO AT MININT ANNIVERSARY MEETING

FL270157 [Editorial Report] Havana Television Service in Spanish at 2258 GMT on 26 March begins live coverage from Havana's Karl Marx Theater of the ceremony commemorating the 25th anniversary of the founding of the state security organizations.

Establishing shot shows the interior of the theater filled with people, many of whom are in uniform. At 2301 GMT, the curtain rises. Several rows of uniformed people are seated on the stage. On the front row are Cuban President Fidel Castro, Army General Raul Castro, Interior Minister Ramiro Valdes, Division General Jose Abrahantes Fernandez, and Vilma Espin.

Children, who are identified by the announcer as members of the Pioneers, perform dances, and recite poetry. Havana Television announcer Manolo Ortega begins speaking at the lectern at 2315 GMT. He introduces Interior Ministry officers who present books to Fidel and Raul Castro, Valdes, and Abrahantes. He announces that Abrahantes will give a speech and introduces him at 2321 GMT.

Abrahantes begins speaking at 2322 GMT. His speech is historical in nature and praises the past performance of security forces. He says: "These past 25 years have not been easy because not for 1 minute has the Yankee enemy ceased in its effort to destroy us."

Abrahantes recognizes the members of the security forces assigned to protect Cuban leaders, the Border Guard Troops, which he calls "socialism's first line of defense." He says that he is sure that the future performance of the Minint would be good.

He thanks other socialist nations, especially the Soviet Union, for their help in the field of security and sends greetings to Nicaraguan security forces as they struggle against imperialism. Abrahantes denounces the foreign policy of the Reagan administration in Latin America and against Cuba, including the plan to beam counterrevolutionary broadcasts to Cuba. He adds that the Minint is prepared to meet these challenges.

He thanks Fidel and Raul for their support and the good example they have set and finishes speaking at 0019 GMT.

Martial music is played and the camera pans the theater. The curtain falls and coverage ends at 0021 GMT.

SOVIET FLOTILLA ARRIVES, NAVAL OFFICERS MEET

FL262055 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] A Soviet Naval flotilla, which included the antisubmarine cruiser Leningrad, the ship Udaloy, a diesel submarine, and an oil tanker, arrived in the port of Havana today.

Ship Captain Pedro Perera Ruiz, Chief of Staff of the Cuban Revolutionary Navy [MGR], and other Cuban officials welcomed the officers from the brother country after the flotilla had docked at the pier facing the MGR Chief of Staff Building.

Rear Admiral Gennadiy Mikhaylov, the Soviet Embassy's military attache in Cuba, was also present. Rear Admiral Fedor Starozhilov then met with Vice Admiral Aldo Santamaria Cuadrados, MGR chief, and member of Cuba's Communist Party Central Committee.

The delegation then went to the Havana office of the National Assembly of People's Government [ANPP] where the officers met with Oscar Fernandez Mell, president of the Havana City Province.

U.S.-HONDURAN MILITARY EXERCISES CONCLUDE

FL262204 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1907 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The U.S.-Honduran Kilo Punch military exercises have culminated with the parachute drop of 350 troops of the 82d Airborne Division of the U.S. Army at the Honduran port of San Lorenzo. A simulated aerial assault similar to the one at San Lorenzo was carried out Saturday against the (Palmerola) Air Base in central Honduras, which was constructed by Washington last June.

The aggressive nature of the war games that ended yesterday in Honduras was confirmed by the U.S. High Command, when it affirmed that the exercise was similar to the one carried out by the United States in Grenada last October. In all, 600 U.S. and Honduran military troops took part in the Kilo Punch military exercises.

NEW U.S. MANEUVERS EXPECTED IN HONDURAS

FL242118 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] An official communique has confirmed that the Grenadier-I military exercises will take place. The maneuvers were expected to take place after the "Big Pine II" military exercises had ended in February. It was reported that the Grenadier-I exercises will include 1,800 U.S. troops from several air transport divisions and that 800 Army combat engineers have begun arriving in Honduras to prepare the (Cuyucahua) and Jamastran Airports for 1,000 soldiers who will rehearse an assault there.

These operations are part of the Kilo Punch maneuvers for assessing the U.S. forces' ability for prompt intervention in El Salvador or Nicaragua. Salvadoran and Guatemalan troops will also be participating in these maneuvers.

ORPA AMBUSHES ARMY TROOPS IN GUATEMALA

PA251949 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Guatemala's Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms, ORPA, has inflicted a total of 16 casualties, including an officer, on Army troops in an ambush near Usucacao, in Suchitepeque Department. A communique released by ORPA, one of the four member organizations of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, reported that during the action, which took place Wednesday, its forces seized five rifles, one machinegun, and one mortar with ammunition. The officer killed in the clash was carrying plans and maps of the operations of the counterinsurgency offensive that over 2,000 Army troops began in that area on 16 March.

ORPA also claimed that on 19 March the guerrilla forces damaged a helicopter in the same area. This was the second aircraft of the Guatemalan Air Force hit by rebel fire in the past 3 days. Other reports revealed that eight persons threatened with death by the government's repressive forces sought asylum at the Ecuadoran Embassy in Guatemala City.

GUATEMALAN PARTY HITS MINING OF NICARAGUAN PORTS

FL232248 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The URNG has issued a communique in which it energetically censures the most recent acts of Yankee imperialism against Nicaragua. The document states that the terrorist acts of mining the waters of Nicaraguan ports -- acts that persons controlled by the traitor Eden Pastora claim to have carried out -- are really carried out by the CIA following direct orders from President Reagan. It adds that it proves better than any declaration the U.S. Government's rejection of the position of political negotiations to resolve the Central American conflict. The URNG concludes by saying that those actions show with what cynicism the United States demagogically affirms that it supports the Contadora Group initiatives.

MINING OF NICARAGUAN PORTS CONDEMNED

PA252021 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Mar 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Excerpt] The U.S. aggression in Central America, showing a complete lack of common sense, has turned that area into a permanent focus of tension, which already threatens to extend beyond the regional boundaries, which is a matter of concern to the governments and peoples of the world.

In fact, the magnitude of the Central American conflict increases day by day due to the growing interference of the United States, whose rulers' lack of responsibility borders on madness. The aggressive actions promoted by the White House in the area increase the possibility of unleashing armed conflicts of unpredictable consequence. Such irresponsible actions, which include international slander campaigns against Nicaragua, subversion, economic blockades, and the preparation of terrorist plans against the Sandinist revolution, in recent weeks have affected other interests, as well. The mining of the Nicaraguan ports of Bluefields, Corinto and Sandino caused damage to vessels of different countries and, worst of all, caused human victims.

The latest case was the damage suffered by the Soviet tanker Lugansk on 20 March when it hit a mine in the waters of the port of Puerto Sandino, on the Pacific coast of Nicaragua, which resulted in five crewmen injured, two of them seriously. This condemnable deed did not affect a warship, but rather a vessel carrying 250,000 barrels of oil for the Nicaraguan people.

In that respect, Commander Manuel Calderon, second in command of the General Directorate of Nicaraguan State Security, said it is possible that the waters of the port of Puerto Sandino were mined by a U.S. warship. He noted that a few days before the arrival of the Soviet tanker, a U.S frigate had anchored some 10 miles off Puerto Sandino. Other reports claimed that the mining of Nicaraguan ports was carried out by commandos trained by the CIA, with equipment brought in from the United States by the Salvadoran regime, and that Washington provided logistical support for the operation.

HONDURANS' PROTEST OF U.S. PRESENCE CITED

PA250441 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] A U.S. Army airborne division has parachuted into the Palmerola area of Honduras. It was reported that this new U.S. military contingent will take part in an exercise designed to test its level of military preparedness. The paratroopers departed from the military base of Fort Bragg, North Carolina, on C-130 planes. The Pentagon had earlier announced that 1,800 troops would participate in the new "Grenadier I" military maneuvers that will take place in Honduras beginning 1 April.

Meanwhile, the Honduran station Radio America has reported that a protest has been issued by an attorney named Angel Castillo, who criticized the Honduran Government policy favoring the presence of foreign troops in Honduras. The Communist Party of Honduras also protested the growing U.S. military presence in Honduras, declaring that the Honduran people will not tolerate any more of these developments.

NICARAGUA'S DANIEL ORTEGA REPORTS CONTRA ATTACK

FL241504 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega has reported in Managua that the Sandinist Army repelled an attack of Somozist counterrevolutionaries against San Rafael, near the border with Honduras. The coordinator of the Junta of the Sandinist government said that the counterrevolutionaries used rifles and mortars in the attack. Ortega emphasized the heroic attitude of the Sandinist forces who put the Somozists to flight even though the Sandinists sustained casualties of 8 dead and 15 wounded.

NICARAGUANS REPORT RECENT HEAVY FIGHTING

FL231624 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1230 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Managua -- The Sandinist Armed Forces have killed 38 counterrevolutionaries during the past 4 days of fighting in the area of San Rafael del Norte, Jinotega Department. This has increased the casualty count to 146 over the last 2 weeks. This report was made by Commander Manuel Salvatierra, chief of staff of the 3rd military zone, at the funeral services for 13 soldiers from San Rafael del Norte, who died in the fighting.

Reports from the combat area tell of heavy fighting in the (Cerro Helado) and Loma Azul areas, where the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] is conducting its campaign, with numerous counterrevolutionary casualties.

Commander Hugo Torres, chief of the EPS Political Directorate said that during one of the attacks, troops which had come from Honduras had been broken up into groups of 30 to 50 men -- although in some areas the groups were as large as 250 men -- because of the Sandinist troops' drive against them.

NICARAGUA SENDS PROTEST NOTE TO HONDURAS

FL261520 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The FSLN has charged that the political, military and economic situation in Nicaragua is becoming more serious each day.

The Sandinist Assembly, an FSLN directorate advisory organization, has issued a statement saying that the present situation calls for a greater sacrifice by the Nicaraguan people in their daily effort to build the foundation for a new society. The Assembly also condemned the deployment of U.S. troops and ships in the Central American region.

The statement says that the Reagan administration is creating conditions for the launching of a larger attack against Nicaragua and El Salvador, which would include the landing of U.S. troops.

Just before this the Nicaraguan Government sent a strong note of protest to Tegucigalpa officials on the Sunday attack by Honduran soldiers and counterrevolutionary forces on the border town of La Ceiba. The protest note called for the Honduran Government to cease lending itself to the U.S. Government's adventurous and illegal activities in order to avoid spreading the Central American conflict.

SANDINISTS ISSUE PLEA TO CONTADORA PRESIDENTS

FL262056 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction has delivered a letter on the urgent need to contain increased U.S. aggression in Central America to the presidents of the countries of the Contadora Group. A high-level Nicaraguan delegation took the Sandinist Junta's letter to Panama, Venezuela, and Colombia, so that those countries would begin taking special measures to impede Yankee plans in Central America.

Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera, who headed the Sandinist group, said that in interviews with the Panamanians, Venezuelans, and Colombians, he found understanding of and concern about the current Central American crisis. Jose Leon Talavera said that Nicaragua would take new measures in other countries to call attention to the serious situation created by the United States in the area.

NICARAGUAN ENVOY IN MOSCOW CITED ON USSR TIES

FL240100 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] The friendly atmosphere of mutual respect in which Soviet-Nicaraguan relations have developed was stressed in Moscow by Nicaraguan Ambassador Jacinto Suarez. Suarez, a young but experienced Sandinist militant, was interviewed by the radio station La Voz de Nicaragua, which described the different types of USSR-Nicaraguan economic cooperation. He said that, in addition to trade agreements, which include the shipment of crude oil such as that transported by the ship that struck a mine in Puerto Sandino, the USSR makes many solidaristic donations. Suarez added that dozens of Nicaraguan youths now studying in the USSR will later work in different economic sectors in Nicaragua.

USSR-NICARAGUAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION NOTED

FL232324 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Nicaraguan Planning Minister Commander Henry Ruiz has commented in Moscow that his country's friendly relations with the USSR are the guarantee of its successful social and economic development.

Ruiz signed various documents the purpose of which is to continue increasing the degree of economic cooperation. The intergovernmental protocol stipulates that the USSR will provide Nicaragua with technical assistance in the creation of crude oil bases [bases de petroleo] in the western part of the nation and the enlargement of textile industry enterprises. At the present time, because of their joint efforts in Nicaragua, nearly 20 enterprises are under construction and a system of television and radio communications is under development.

MANAGUA PRESS CRITICIZES EL SALVADOR ELECTION

PA261236 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Report by Radio Havana correspondent in Managua -- live]

[Excerpt] The Nicaraguan press today stressed the fraudulence of the electoral process, which, under Washington's auspices, is taking place in neighboring Salvadoran territory, and the only objective of which is to perpetrate imperialist domination over the smallest of the Central American nations.

For political observers in this capital, it is clear that the elections, which are characterized by coercion and violence against the popular sectors, are part of the U.S. public opinion misinformation campaign prepared by Ronald Reagan, which also serves as a pretext to concentrate strong Yankee military contingents on the Honduran-Salvadoran border. It is also clear that by excluding the Salvadoran patriots, these elections in fact annul any negotiated solution of the conflict and strengthen the militaristic solution for which the United States is intensively preparing.

Ronald Reagan has said that these elections constitute a historical day for El Salvador. Historical indeed for the interventionist Yankee plans, but without the least value for the daily victims of the official repression and pillage, which will not change one iota as a result of this Sunday's elections. Meanwhile, in keeping with reality in the country, the FMLN is carrying out the revolutionary war against the local puppets and imperialism.

The Managua press stress that this Saturday, some 70 guerrillas ambushed 180 Salvadoran troops. Colonel Roberto Rodriguez, commander of that military region, admits to only 27 deaths, which is still the highest number of casualties recently suffered by the genocidal regime in one single clash. It has been said that Col Rodriguez' interest in not admitting to more casualties is because the other five bodies belong to foreign advisers.

Recent reports state that due to the absence of electricity in a large portion of the Salvadoran territory as a result of guerrilla actions, the electoral process will be almost completely finished during the afternoon, according to official orders. The real tone of these elections was set by a communique issued in San Salvador by the paramilitary Secret Anticommunist Army [ESA], in which it offers its unrestricted support for the electoral process -- in other words, the assassins support the guarantee to continue murdering.

ELECTION RESULTS IN EL SALVADOR MAY BE CHALLENGED

FL261744 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Reports cabled from El Salvador have described this small Central American country's presidential elections as disorganized and filled with confusion and general discontent.

A wide spectrum of society described yesterday's elections as being the worse in El Salvador's history. This fact has caused one of the political parties participating in the elections to announce its intention to contest the election.

The Democratic Action Party [AD] -- [Partido Accion Democratica], whose presidential candidate is Rene Fortin, a lawyer, has stated that it is considering asking that the elections to be declared void because of the unprecedented number of irregularities which took place.

The most recent reports indicate that a check of the first three ballot counts gave the following results: Christian Democratic Party -- 603 votes; ultrarightist party ARENA [Republican Nationalist Alliance] -- 480 votes; and Nicaraguan Conservative Party [as heard] [PCN] -- 208 votes. The official results will be announced in 72 hours.

SALVADORAN UNION CALLS MEMBERS TO STRIKE

FL262219 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] More than 35,000 workers from state run organizations and employees from the private sector have been asked by the Salvadoran Central Union [Central Sindical Salvadorena] to go on strike today against the reigning state of terror in the nation. The Salvadoran labor organization called its members to strike and told them to remain firm in spite of the regime's warnings of continued repression.

The failure of the United States' right-wing elections in El Salvador was made evident by such incidents as the Salvadoran Central Union's call to strike, the Salvadoran people's pronouncements against the farcical elections, and the numerous guerrilla attacks.

Newscasts throughout Central American today reported that the United States had planned to use the Salvadoran elections to trigger an intervention into the region, but instead it turned into another guerrilla victory.

FOUR DYNAMITE ATTACKS ON CHILE REPORTED

PA231918 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Four dynamite attacks occurred early this morning in Santiago, Chile, against two electrical posts and two buses which at that hour were without passengers. One of the vehicles was completely destroyed. The other was seriously damaged. The demolition of the electrical posts resulted in a blackout that lasted several hours in the northern zone of the Chilean capital.

Catholic Church spokesmen also charged that a bomb was hurled by unidentified people at the residence of Jorge Fartan, auxiliary bishop of Santiago, but the bomb was a dud. Those responsible for the foiled attempt left pamphlets that read: Communist priests out of Chile.

PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT PLANS TO SUPPRESS STRIKES

PA261700 Havana International Service in Quechua 2200 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The Peruvian Government has ordered its repressive corps to check, with whatever force is necessary, any disturbance that striking workers could provoke on streets and in work centers such as factories. The government also ordered that no street demonstrations be allowed.

Wednesday night a group of men carried out armed activities in and around Lima. These activities took place on the eve of a general strike by Peruvian workers protesting the government's economic policies.

In the Pueblo Libre District there was an attack on a Peruvian Investigative Police installation. Machineguns were used. According to some sources, there were some explosions in the area of the U.S. Embassy and near Sears.

National Strike Fails

PA251928 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] The Peruvian Government has insisted that last Thursday's national work stoppage was a failure, and has described the firing of a tear gas bomb at Communist Senator Jorge del Prado as a mere police incident. The opposition coalition of the United Left has demanded a total change in the government's economic policy and the resignation and constitutional arraignment of Interior Minister Luis Percovich for the attack on Senator Jorge del Prado.

The Political Committee of the Peruvian Communist Party charged that the tear gas bomb fired from close range at the secretary general of the party could have killed him. Del Prado was admitted to a Lima hospital, where he is recovering from a serious wound caused by the bomb.

The Peruvian interior minister was congratulated by President Fernando Belaunde Terry for what the latter described as keen and cautious behavior on the part of the police during the national strike called by the Peruvian labor federations. The police action during the strike caused injuries to three congressmen, one student was seriously wounded, and hundreds of persons were arrested.

PERUVIAN LEFTISTS DEMAND MINISTER'S RESIGNATION

PA261454 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] The opposition's United Leftist Coalition has demanded a substantial change in the Peruvian Government's economic policy, which was termed anti-popular and pro-imperialist. The coalition has also demanded the resignation and constitutional trial of Interior Minister Luis Percovich, in view of the police attack suffered by Communist Senator Jorge del Prado. The United Left's national directorate met in Lima to assess the results of yesterday's nationwide strike protesting the government's economic policy, and also to decide on the next course of action.

A delegation from this opposition political front will formally present charges against Percovich before the attorney general on what has been considered attempted murder against Senator Del Prado, secretary general of the Peruvian Communist Party.

Recent reports note that a large number of people were injured and 600 others were arrested as a result of the violent repression staged by the Peruvian police, in an attempt to repress the national strike, which was completed successfully.

MEXICO'S DE LA MADRID CITED ON C.A. CONFLICT

FL230145 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Mexico City -- Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid has demanded here total support for political negotiations to solve the Central American crisis. De la Madrid vigorously rejected the arms buildup in Central America which, he said, obstructs peace efforts. During the event to commemorate the 158th anniversary of Benito Juarez' birth, President De la Madrid said that Latin Americans must solve the problems of the continent by themselves. He said that in his upcoming tour of Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina Brazil he will promote the strengthening of the principles of self-determination and nonintervention, as well as peace and cooperation for development.

Comments on Contadora

FL232254 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid today warned that in the event of an emergency in Central America, the Contadora Group would take a special action. He disclosed that Mexico is willing to attend a meeting of chiefs of state of the countries which make up this group -- Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela -- to discuss the problems of Central America at the highest level.

In an interview granted to EL ESPECTADOR of Colombia, the Mexican president said that he is worried because while Contadora mechanisms become active, the threats of war and intervention do not stop. De la Madrid stressed that the Latin American conflicts being experienced today basically [word indistinct] the economic and social underdevelopment of the countries of the area.

Asked about the U.S. position regarding the Central American problem, he said that the Contadora Group rejects military intervention as a way to solve the conflict. He added that most of the strength of the countries that make up the Contadora Group stems from the fact that they have an honest and independent foreign policy. The Mexican president, who will begin a 2-day official visit to Colombia on Monday, disclosed that he will review the Central American situation and the progress of the Contadora Group efforts with his Colombian counterpart, Belisario Betancur Cuartas. He remarked that in addition to this analysis, they will discuss the strategy to be followed.

UN SECRETARY GENERAL MEETS MEXICAN PRESIDENT

FL241526 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has said that he shares Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid's concern over the serious situation in Central America. After meeting for more than 3 hours with the Mexican president, Perez de Cuellar expressed his personal support and the institutional support of the UN for the Contadora Group's efforts to reach a peaceful solution in the area.